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THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17TH, 2016

High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY
...AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE - PAGES 19-23

VISIT COWBRIDGE THIS CHRISTMAS
A Magical Festive Experience
See Pages 25-28

The City of Swansea Pipe Band led Bridgend's Remembrance Sunday parade. (More photographs and reports throughout this week's edition).

ROAD CRASH VICTIM'S FAMILY IN HEARTFELT 'THANK YOU'

SOUTH Wales Police have urged people to "avoid the temptation of getting behind the wheel if they have consumed alcohol".

The warning was issued after a Bridgend family expressed their devastation over the loss of a father, Mr Terry Hill, who was in collision with a man who had been drink driving.

Lee Rees (41) of Stanleytown, Ferndale, crashed into a vehicle driven by Mr Hill in Wattstown.

Rees pleaded guilty to causing the death of Mr Hill by dangerous driving and to driving with excess alcohol, and he was jailed.

Mr Hill's wife, Joanna Hill, said: "No sentence given by the court would ever replace the loss of Terry, or repair the total devastation caused by Mr Rees' actions on that night.

"We would like to thank our family, friends and the wider community for the overwhelming support received at what has been a traumatic time for us all.

"We would like to thank South Wales Police for the support and professionalism of the investigation, and especially our Family Liaison Officer and the Serious Collision Investigation Unit.

"We would now ask for privacy to try and come to terms with what has happened."

Inspector Steve Davies said: "Mrs Hill and her family have shown considerable strength throughout the investigation into the tragic death of a much-loved husband and father. Our thoughts remain with them at this time.

"On Friday, June 16, Mr Terry Hill tragically lost his life when his vehicle was involved in a road traffic collision with a vehicle being driven by Lee Rees, who was driving while under the influence of alcohol.

"It is highly probable that had Mr Rees not consumed alcohol that day, this tragedy would have been avoided.

"We are grateful to the witnesses who came forward to assist us in the investigation that led to the conviction of Mr Rees.

"South Wales Police would like to emphasise to all motorists that drinking and driving can lead to terrible circumstances such as this.

"With the sporting events being held this weekend and with the Christmas period almost upon us, we would encourage people to plan their journeys ahead, and avoid the temptation to get behind the wheel if they have consumed alcohol.

"South Wales Police are leading the All Wales drink and drug drive campaign this Christmas and events such as this only serve to emphasise the need for drivers to avoid drinking alcohol prior to driving."

'Callous' thieves steal Poppy Appeal cash

POLICE in Maesteg are hunting thieves who stole Poppy Appeal collection boxes at the Royal British Legion Club, Maesteg, on Armistice Day.

It occurred in the early hours of Friday, November 11, between 3.30am and 4.15am, when burglars targeted the club on Commercial Street, stealing a number of Poppy Appeal money boxes, as well as a quantity of cash, and a gambling machine money box.

"Those responsible are thought to have made their way to Welfare Park, Maesteg, where some of the stolen items were discarded," said PC Ben Griffiths.

"This has caused the staff, the club and committee members a great deal of distress, especially with it occurring on Remembrance Day. This burglary demonstrates how disrespectful and callous these criminals are, acting in this manner on such an important day."

Anyone who saw or heard anything suspicious in the areas of Commercial Street, Neath Road or Welfare Park, Maesteg, between 3.30am and 6am, is urged to contact 101, or Crimestoppers, free and anonymously, quoting reference 1600436766.

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TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGING ON WORLD SCENE

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive report for GEM readers.

I BANNED all discussion of the US Presidential election everywhere I went on Wednesday, November 9, the day the result was known. It was all too depressing!

Looking at the election from a defence perspective, President-elect Trump poses a number of unknowns especially in relation to NATO.

I have a number of NATO meetings coming up before Christmas. The first meeting is in Istanbul: Turkey is having a number of internal problems at present, which are causing concerns within the Alliance. The committee meetings will be addressing a number of serious concerns across the Alliance and it is unclear what the President-elect's views will be.

The second meeting will be in Washington DC; by then it may be possible to gain a clearer view of the incoming administration's future plans in the weeks before President-elect Trump takes office. That, however, is for a future article.

These thoughts were going through my head as I stood at the war memorial in Bridgend on November 11 holding a wreath dedicated to those who fell at the Somme.

The Battle of the Somme lasted five months and left one million dead and wounded on both sides. It was this battle that was said to have influenced America's entry into the First World War.

The American troops were led by General John Pershing, who as his first act on arriving in Paris, visited the tomb of the Marquis de Lafayette. During the American war of Independence against the British, Lafayette supported the American revolutionaries.

"Lafayette, nous voilà!" (Lafayette, we are here!) the General is said to have stated. This act of homage was a recognition of how much America was bound to Europe.

Lafayette was born into a French aristocratic family. He joined the military as an officer when aged 13. As a 19-year-old he travelled to America to join the American revolutionaries and was made a Major General.

Later he was to write, with the support of Thomas Jefferson, a document called the Declaration of the Rights of Man And of The Citizen.

America had sworn to stay out of the European war, but this changed in 1917. President Wilson argued that like Lafayette, America would fight for freedom from oppression in an effort to make the world a freer and better place.

The arrival of the American troops changed the war – it also changed America. Entering the war increased American industrialisation, expanded its army, brought women the vote, and created a vision of its role as the leader of the free world.

By 1918, there were 17 million dead and 20 million wounded. Of the dead, 11 million were military and 7 million were civilians. America lost 116,000 and Europe was exhausted and impoverished.

Woodrow Wilson, the US President, established a new organisation called The League of Nations in an attempt to ensure future world peace. The League lasted 26 years and after World War Two, was replaced by The United Nations.

After the Second World War, another new organisation was created to ensure lasting peace. It was called the European Coal and Steel Community. Later, it became the European Economic Community and, finally, the European Union.

As the new Nobel Laureate, Bob Dylan sang, "The times they are a-changing." We now have Brexit and President-elect Trump, but what next? There will be lots of media articles, arguments, reassurances and alarms. There won't be £350million a week for the NHS and it is unlikely that the Mexican Government will agree to finance a wall separating themselves from the US.

We have three remembrance services locally on the first Sunday after November 11. I alternate between Porthcawl and Bridgend. For the two services I cannot attend, I buy wreaths and arrange for local school pupils to lay them on my behalf.

I always meet the pupils beforehand and talk about the act of remembrance. This year I went to Mynydd Cynffig Primary and Brynteg Comprehensive. I cannot begin to tell you how impressed I was by the pupils I met.

In the primary school, I was asked about the American election and I left agreeing to go back and hold a parliamentary-style debate once they had created their political parties, chosen their leadership teams, and agreed a debate topic.

I discussed the US election with the head boy and head girl of Brynteg and was impressed by their insight and understanding. Time to lower the voting age! These young people will be facing the new world just being created.

At the war memorial, there were lots of very young children. During the service, one of the children turned to his mum and asked "are we remembering yet?"

Children really do come up with the best lines. As I stood there, remembering, I couldn't help but think about what the world will look like for that child in the years to come.

The last year in politics has shown that the future is not something that anyone can easily predict, but one thing is for certain, times definitely are a-changing.

Porthcawl Lions' events this winter

HAVING worked on a number of the fundraising and service projects during the summer months, the Porthcawl Lions Club are planning to serve the local community over the next few months with a range of autumn and winter activities to appeal to all walks of life.

A spokesman said: "In association with Tŷ Hafan, the Lions will be staging a fashion show on November 17 at the Hi Tide, Porthcawl starting at 7.30pm.

"The show will feature a range of fashion lines from Samantha B (Ewenny) to start the festive season off in style.

"Tickets can be purchased from the Tŷ Hafen shop, Bridgend and are priced at £10, to include a meal as well as a mix of fun, entertainment and raffles.

"Father Christmas will arrive in the town on November 26. You will be able to find Santa at the Museum on John Street, from 10am until 4pm each Saturday until December 17.

"The Lions are also pleased to be supporting the work of the Rotary Club who, with All Saints Church, Victoria Avenue, are organising the Annual Christmas Tree Festival. Open from Monday, November 28 until December 5, the festival will include a magnificent display of decorated Christmas trees placed by schools and local organisations.

"The seasons' activities will be rounded off with the Annual Boxing Day Fun Run. A firm fixture in the local running calendar, the run starts at the Hi Tide, Mackworth Road at 11am. Registration forms can be downloaded from the Porthcawl Lions Club website at http://porthcawllions.org.uk/Funrun.html

"With prizes for categories winners, and (in true festive fashion) for the best fancy dress, what better way to shake off the excesses of Christmas Day."

Commenting on the activities organised for the next few months, Club President Don Tickner added: "We continue to be overwhelmed by the support we have from the local community. The festive season brings out the best in everyone, and we hope that the events in which we are involved will be well supported."

Coleg praised in the Senedd

THE AM for Ogmore, Huw Irranca-Davies, welcomed the huge rise in academic standards over the last year at Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen, during questions to the cabinet secretary for education at the National Assembly.

The Minister responded with praise for the leadership shown from top to bottom in the school.

Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen, a school in Huw's constituency in Ynysawdre has seen a record breaking year of GCSE results with 93 percent of students achieving at least five GCSE grades at A to C (34 percent higher than in 2015). This followed the appointment of a new executive headteacher, and the support of Schools Challenge Cymru from the Welsh Government and local authority.*

The AM said: "In a remarkably short time, under a new executive headteacher, Nick Brain, and with strong leadership right throughout the school, both staff and pupils have done exceptionally well and should be very proud of their achievements, as I am!

"These exceptional results are the best in the history of the school, and even better than the results of its two predecessor schools of Ogmore and Ynysawdre Comprehensives."

He has called on the Welsh Government to help build on this success, "to make sure that it is now continued long into the future, so that all pupils no matter where they live, no matter what background they come from, have the very best opportunity in life."

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr Anthony Jones – **3 Vale Park, Broadlands** – Conversion of garage into living space with window to front and archway through to kitchen via connecting wall.

Mrs Joan Boon – **15 Abbey Road, Kenfig Hill** – Shower room extension to rear and ramped access arrangements.

Mr Nicholas Lloyd – **4 Commercial Street, Kenfig Hill** – Steel container in garden for storage of domestic equipment with wooden trellis around it for screening.

Mr Dewi Morris – **2 Cae Forgan, Llangeinor** – Two storey, two wall extension to extend off existing extension (1 x additional bedroom, 1 x utility room). Spar finish with pitched annexed roof over existing and new build extension.

Mr Ian Petrie – **1 Dros Olwg y Mynydd, Lewistown** – Fell an oak tree at the rear of the property.

Mr Brian Higgins – **63 Graham Avenue, Penyfai** – Loft conversion with dormer extension.

Mrs Beverley Jones – **56 Minffrwd Road, Pencoed** – Works to two oak trees, tree 1: raise the crown and a 40 per cent reduction; tree 2: pollard the tree to allow natural growth.

Wern Tarw Recycling Ltd – **Land at former RAF facility, Stormy Down, Mount Pleasant Road, Tythegston** – Relax condition 1 of P/6/44/FUL to enable facility to continue operating on an unrestricted basis.

The Rest (Porthcawl) Ltd – **The Rest Convalescent Home, Porthcawl** – Approval of details for conditions 11 and 14 of P/14/763/FUL.

Woodgates, The Wallich Centre – **12 Park Street, Bridgend** – Change of use from Class A2 to Class C4, including the installation of a fire escape stair, additional shower toilet facilities providing 5 accommodation and the upgrading of the existing thermal elements of the existing building.

Mr Julian Thomas – **Rear of 1-5, Parc Tyn y Waun, Llangynwyd** – Reduce height of holly, sycamore and hazel trees by 30 per cent to encourage new and active growth and thin out branches.

Valleys to Coast – **Land opposite 5-9 Heol y Goedwig, Porthcawl** – Demolition of existing buildings and construction of new community facilities with associated access and landscaping works.

A B A Holdings Ltd – **The Jennings, Eastern Promenade, Porthcawl** – Approval of details for condition 6 of P/15/609/FUL and condition 7 of P/15/608/LIS. Approval of details for condition 13 of P/15/609/FUL.

Zurich Assurance Ltd – **7 Bank Buildings, Bridgend Industrial Estate** – Certificate of lawfulness for proposed use as Class A1 (shop).

Mr Andrews Braund – **Former Lluest School, Lleuest, Pontyrhyl, Pontycymmer** – Proposed storage and underground work areas on land at former Lluest School, Lluest, Pontyrhyl.

Penybont Real Estate Co Ltd – **45B John Street, Porthcawl** – Provision of a first floor area to existing office.

Bridgend County Borough Council – **Waterton Highway Depot off Lon Tre-Dwr** – Provision of portable accommodation units at Waterton Highways Depot currently at Bettws Primary School to replace the Highway building being demolished.

Mr Kelvin Lewis – **16-18 Derwen Road, Bridgend** – Proposed conversion of first and second floors to two self-contained flats (one on each floor) – change of use.

Mr Matthew McGann – **28 Springfield, Heol Tyn yr Garn, Penyfai** – Approval for details for Condition 1 of P/16/536/FUL.

Coastal Housing Group – **Land at the Rhiw multi-storey car park, The Rhiw, Bridgend** – Approval of details for condition 9 of P/15/60/FUL.

Merthyr Mawr Estate Office – **The Cottage, Merthyr Mawr Road, Merthyr Mawr** – Approval of details for Condition 2 of P/16/490/LIS and conditions 2, 3, 4b and c (note) of P/16/491/FUL.

Mrs Amanda Parsons – **Blandy Hall, Laleston** – Remove hawthorn tre as it is growing into the wall that leads onto the highway at the rear of the grounds.

Mr and Mrs N Evans – **36 Ffordd Sanderling, Porthcawl** – Construction of a single storey extension to provide an indoor pool.

Mr Adrian Lean – **Oaklands Farm, Minffrwd Road, Rhiwceiliog, Pencoed** – Rural enterprise worker's temporary dwelling, retrospective.

Ms Clare Tuck – **Garden of 67 Woodlands Avenue, Pencoed** – New dwelling in garden of 67 Woodlands Avenue.

Ms Valerie Jenkins – **21 High Street, Nantyffyllon, Maesteg** – Access arrangements from public footpath to front entrance door. Vertical platform lift installation.

Hair by Abi – **3 The Precinct, Rest Bay, Porthcawl** – Non illuminated fascia sign. Convert detached masonry garage to the rear of the property to a florist shop.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL NOVEMBER 24)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
17 Thur	07.59	10.5	20.28	10.4
18 Fri	08.47	10.1	21.12	9.9
19 Sat	09.33	9.6	22.01	9.3
20 Sun	10.25	9.0	22.54	8.6
21 Mon	11.22	8.4	23.55	8.2
22 Tues			12.28	8.1
23 Wed	01.09	7.9	13.45	8.0
24 Thur	02.24	8.1	14.53	8.3

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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MAYOR'S TIPS AT REHEARSAL OF 'BROADWAY BOUNCES BACK'!

Report and pictures by Keith E Morgan

THE Mayor and Mayoress of Porthcawl, Coun Robert and Mrs Ann Lee, recently popped into one of the Porthcawl Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society's rehearsal of their forthcoming show *Broadway Bounces Back*.

The children were delighted with the 'tips' that the Mayor gave to them from his limited experience of being 'on the boards', but took it all in good part especially as it meant appearing in a group photograph with him and the Mayoress for The GEM!

Not to disappoint the rest of the cast, the Mayor and Mayoress also participated in a group photograph with them as well.

Broadway Bounces Back, featuring The Broadway Chorus with special guests The Tredegar Town Band and The Sarah Burnell School of Dance, is at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, at 7.30pm on Saturday, November 26. Tickets £12, with concessions for under-16s at £9.

Mark's trek round Wales for Bloodwise

Mark Freeman and Rachael Davies.

MARK Freeman from Bridgend recently completed an epic journey on foot around the perimeter of Wales to raise money for blood cancer charity Bloodwise (formerly Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research).

Mark didn't have any support team on the route, he did it completely on his own, carrying all of the gear he needed with him.

He chose to support Bloodwise after his father passed away from Hodgkin Lymphoma a week before Christmas in 2013. The effects of his father's death, coupled with his own health issues saw Mark struggle for a long time, forcing him to leave his degree course in March 2015.

He set himself this challenge as a way to get back on track and do something that his father would have enjoyed doing.

His aim was to raise £1,047 but so far he's raised almost £2,100.

Rachael Davies, regional manager Wales for Bloodwise said: "This is an amazing challenge! To walk all that way completely unsupported is a massive feat and we really appreciate Mark fundraising for us as well as raising the profile of our charity along the way."

If you'd like to sponsor Mark you can do so by visiting www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Trekkingaround Wales.

Stroke club and Lodge residents get musical treat

ON November 9, soprano Jessica Robinson (2016 Prince of Wales Scholar) and pianist Rhiannon Pritchard entertained at the Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court, Masonic Lodge, Porthcawl.

Porthcawl Stroke Club joined residents for a special musical treat organised by the lodge, enjoying professional artists through the Music in Hospitals scheme.

I was fortunate to meet Jessica in person, as I had seen her singing at the Royal Albert Hall, London, at the Welsh Festival of Male Choirs on its 25th anniversary under the baton of Edward Rhys Harry – which was an outstanding event.

Jessica and Rhiannon are both very talented ladies and all participants had pleasure in listening to Jessica's heavenly voice, which lifted spirits and brought fond memories through the love of music.

Porthcawl Stroke Club would like to thank the Masonic Lodge Home for inviting members to join in with the residents and watch two talented entertainers.

Anyone wishing to join the Porthcawl Stroke Club can contact chairman Mr Keith Duggan, or Mrs Mary Duggan on 01656 773376.

BARBARA MATTHEWS

Life-saving device will be available in Pencoed town

THE Pencoed-based company, April Complete Care Solutions, recently put on a special event to celebrate its 20th anniversary.

As well as marking that 'birthday' the evening at Tondu Cricket Club was a fundraiser to raise cash to put a life-saving defibrillator in the town.

Mathew Hughes of April Complete Care Solutions told The GEM: "The night was well attended with around 100 guests including the Mayor of Pencoed, Coun John McCarthy, service users, staff and kids.

"Due to the excellent raffle prizes which were on offer, tickets were in high demand. We would like to thank all for their contributions they were very generous.

"The raffle was announced by Pencoed's local butcher/reverend, Rev Richard Roberts. Special thanks go to him for doing a wonderful job.

"We would like to thank the mayor for his speech and for announcing that the council would be making public sign posts to inform local residents of the location of the defibrillator. It will be accessible 24/7 at the Londis/Texaco Petrol station in the centre of Pencoed."

Coun John McCarthy with the registered manager of April Complete Care Solutions, Vicky Richards.

Mathew continued: "We had a great night. We didn't quite reach our target but we will be having one final fundraising event at our Christmas open day at our office in 14, Hendre Road on Wednesday, December 7.

"Bring the kids to meet Santa, and there will be a special visit from the Dogs Trust. Doors open 11-5pm."

Local companies who supported the evening were: Tesco; The Co-op; MJ Autos; the Village Florist; Andrew Davis Photography; Mercedes Benz; Premier Stores; Parish Green and Beatty Opticians; Roberts and Son Butchers; Lilos Past Shop; O My Cod; Britania pub; John Dave; Tinker Nails; Strands by Shelly; Sheppards Pharmacy; Royal Victoria Glade; Barclays Bank; Bassrock; and Greggs.

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PHOTOGRAPHS by RANDELL JOHN (LSWPP)
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Hundreds gathered in Bridgend on Remembrance Sunday to remember the British and Commonwealth Fallen of all conflicts since 1914 – including the 'forgotten wars' of Korea, Suez, the Malayan Emergency, Aden, Northern Ireland, the Falklands, the Gulf War and the wars in the Balkans – but also those who are still alive with wounds visible or invisible.

Trecco Bay trumps top tourism title

LEFT: Members of the Trecco Bay team, Ian Gill (second left) Laura Miller and Paul McLaughlin (right) with Mark Warnes, property and portfolio director, Hoseasons (left).

PORTHCAWL holiday park, Trecco Bay, has been presented with a top national tourism award by domestic holiday company Hoseasons.

The park was crowned 'Best Family Fun Destination in Wales' at Hoseasons' 11th annual awards evening – an event showcasing the very best of the self-catering specialist's lodges and holiday parks across the UK.

The Hoseasons Diamond Awards are broken down into eight UK regions and presented to Hoseasons locations that have achieved the highest scores in independent customer satisfaction surveys.

"That Trecco Bay has won this award demonstrates that they really have gone above and beyond when it comes to looking after their customers," said Simon Altham, managing director of Hoseasons, who presented the award.

"As one of Britain's most popular holiday locations, the standards set by this park are exactly what we have in mind when we talk about offering our customers a better place to stay, and we wish them all the best for another successful year in 2017."

Hoseasons recently announced it had enjoyed its sixth record summer in a row with bookings up 14 per cent across its entire UK portfolio.

TABERNACL COFFEE

A COFFEE morning will be held at Tabernacl Hall (Derwen Road, Bridgend) on Saturday, November 26 from 10am – 12.30pm. Admission £2, tickets on the door.

There will be numerous stalls including books and cards, and proceeds will be donated to the chapel's chosen charities for this year – Water Aid, Talking Books Wales, and Ty Hafan. Welcome to all – *Croeso i bawb!*

Concert raises £3,300 for church appeal

ON November 4, there was a fundraising concert and auction held in aid of Marcross Church at St Donat's Arts Centre.

We had a full house and managed to raise £3,300 for urgently needed church repairs. Matthew Brook, bass Bbritone, and Anna Markland, piano, performed a wide variety of music to the delight of the audience who were in a warm and generous spirit.

We thank all for their support for this very important cause, and thank Hopkin Joseph for his entertaining auctioning skills.

There were many kind donations on top of ticket sales, including a large amount from Sir Gerald and Lady Elliot of Edinburgh, who regularly support charity and arts events. Thanks must go to Atlantic College, St Donats Castle, for their generous offer for the use of the Tythe Barn.

Thanks also to the fundraising team and committee, who have put in many hours of work to make these events go so smoothly. There will be further fundraising events throughout the year.

MATTHEW BROOK

Tractor Boys' £1,500 cheque for baby care unit

THE Tractor Boys of Aberthin held a presentation evening at the Farmers Arms, Aberthin, on Monday, October 24, when the main event of the evening was the presentation by Bob Biddle, president of the Tractor Boys, of a cheque for £1,500 to the special baby care unit at Singleton Hospital, Swansea.

Kelly-Anne Gibson, a nurse at the baby care unit, accepted the cheque on behalf of the hospital, and expressed her delight at the amount raised.

The money was raised at the request of Caroline Langford, who wanted to thank the nursing staff at the hospital for their efforts and the excellent care given to her twin granddaughters, who were born three months premature. As a result of their dedication, the babies have just celebrated their first birthday.

The bulk of the money presented was raised as the result of a tractor run held around the Gower coastline back in the summer. Around 22 tractors attended the event on a nice sunny Sunday morning. All those who attended agreed that the run was excellent, was very well organised and was a fantastic way to view the beautiful Gower scenery.

Many thanks go to Martyn and Jim, who organised the run, and also to Bruce Pritchard, who made a very generous contribution to the funds raised.

Kelly-Anne told the attendees at the presentation evening that the money raised would go towards the purchase of specialist nursing chairs and was something that was desperately needed within the unit.

SRD

Streets come alive in Bridgend town for the festival of light and lantern parade

Photos by MANDY THOMAS
(Available for purchase, telephone 07541 982794)

A new event this year in Bridgend, on Saturday, November 12, was the festival of Light and Lantern Parade, and the streets were alive with light and fire!

There was a circus atmosphere to the town, as spectators watched the parade, clapped along to the music, and enjoyed the activities of the fire artists.

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State schools embrace the old-boy network!

BRYNTIRION Comprehensive School is seeking former students who can inspire and motivate the current generation to academic success and career confidence.

Bryntirion is one of 400 state schools across Britain working with the education charity Future First to harness the talents and experience of alumni to support today's students through 'old school tie' networks.

The school is keen to hear from former students who left recently for further education as well as those in established careers and vocations, alumni who live nearby and those who have moved away.

Future First's vision is that every state school or college should be supported by a thriving, engaged alumni that helps it to do more for its students. More than 180,000 former pupils across Britain have already signed up to stay connected with their old school. They're inspiring young people as career and education role models, mentors, work experience providers, governors, donors and fundraisers.

Shaun Clarke, deputy headteacher and past Bryntirion pupil said: "We jumped at the chance of joining the Future First's scheme. It has enabled us to provide our students with a network of past pupils and their valuable experiences.

"It will be vital in helping us to broaden our pupils' job horizons and better equip them for the world of work.

"We want to hear from as many former pupils as possible, from all types of industry and backgrounds to offer help and advice to our students with employment choices, apprenticeships, choosing a university or which university course to study."

Stand by your (flower) beds!

ARMY CADETS HELP TO SPRUCE UP GARDEN FOR CARE HOME RESIDENTS

Cadets Juckiewicz and Lazarus with Staff Sergeant Watson.

TEN Army Cadets gave up their Saturday mornings throughout September and October to help make over the gardens at Brocastle Care Home, near Bridgend.

The cadets are from the Bridgend Detachment Dyfed-Glamorgan Army Cadet Force and are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh (D of E) Bronze award.

Part of this involves volunteering and Staff Sergeant Gill Watson, who works as a financial administrator at Brocastle, was able to coordinate their visits.

SSgt Watson said: "It's often hard to find volunteering projects for those doing their D of E, but this is a perfect win-win situation for both the residents and the cadets. "They have to do three months of volunteering and their visits will help them develop practical skills, and they'll have the chance to get to know the residents."

The cadets have repainted the garden furniture, shed and fence panels in the garden at the home.

Cadet Izzy Lazarus and Cadet Hana Juckiewicz, both aged 13, have been with the cadets for a year and really enjoy learning life skills that they wouldn't learn elsewhere.

Cadet Lazarus said: "It's great, we do loads of really exciting stuff. We are left to get on with things and we have to figure problems out on our own.

"It's nice to do something for the community and to be helping older people so they have a nice environment to relax in."

Cadet Juckiewicz added: "It's was lovely to be doing something like this and it's great to make the environment better for the residents of Brocastle."

The garden is located outside the home's newly refurbished reminiscence room 'Myfanwy's Tea Room'.

This is used for afternoon teas and coffee mornings as well as being an area where residents can sit and reminisce about days gone by, and enjoy looking at the different photos and items on the wall and in memory boxes.

Joan Sharrem, age 92 has lived at Brocastle for two years. Her room looks out over the garden and she has enjoyed meeting the young volunteers.

She said: "It looks lovely and they have done such a good job."

MP's call for a lower voting age 'dismissed'

THE Ogmore MP called for the voting age to be lowered in Parliament last week.

At present, only those over the age of 18 can vote on who will become their Member of Parliament.

In Scotland, 16-year-olds can already vote for MSPs (Member of the Scottish Parliament) and councillors and if the Wales Bill passes there is the option for it to be extended to elect AMs and Welsh councillors too.

Chris Elmore asked Chris Skidmore (under-secretary to the Cabinet Office) if this could be extended to MPs.

Mr Elmore said: "It makes complete sense to lower the voting age. People aged 16 can enrol in the armed forces, pay tax, and are able marry, or enter into civil partnership, so why on earth can they not vote?

"Countries such as Austria, Brazil and Argentina, as well as many others, have the voting age at 16; whereas Britain appears to be left behind on this important issue to improve youth engagement and democracy."

Mr Elmore said his question was dismissed by the UK Government.

'Thank you for write-ups'

I'M writing to thank Tim Chapman for covering the MoD and Ska fundraiser for the Teenage Cancer Trust on Saturday, September 16 at the Tramshed, Cardiff.

We were very proud of the write-ups and coverage in The GEM.

Thanks once again.

Karl Webb, Promoter, Barry.

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Roasted Hake with a Beurre Blanc
Chicken Breast with Parma Ham, Mozzarella & Pesto
Battered Cod and Chips
Beef braised in Barolo with Mushrooms and Onions
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MP secures some good news for Air Cadets in Wales

MADELEINE Moon MP received confirmation from the Ministry of Defence yesterday that air cadets will still be able to enjoy the experience of gliding in Wales.

The news follows a long campaign with fellow MP, Byron Davies (MP for Gower) to maintain access to gliding for air cadets after an announcement by the Ministry of Defence that volunteer gliding squadrons in Wales would be disbanded.

Mrs Moon and Mr Davies met with Defence Minister, Mark Lancaster, last week to discuss solutions to ensure air cadets in Wales could still have access to lessons.

In Defence Questions in the House of Commons yesterday, the Minister announced a compromise solution during an exchange with Mrs Moon.

Madeleine Moon MP: "The Hon. Member for Gower (Byron Davies) and I have been campaigning to bring opportunities to air cadets in Wales to experience gliding in Wales. We were promised at a meeting in the Ministry of Defence last week that a decision was pending. Is it good news or bad news?"

Mark Lancaster (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State): "It is good news. The Hon. Lady and my Hon. Friend the Member for Gower (Byron Davies) have been absolute champions when it comes to pursuing the opportunity for cadets in Wales to glide in Wales, so I am pleased to announce that I will facilitate summer gliding camps at St Athan on a trial basis next summer, with a view to continuing them in future."

Madeleine said: "We are very pleased that the Minister took on board our concerns about the loss of the squadrons and has made this offer, which goes some way to ensuring air cadets in Wales can have gliding lessons."

AMS 'STANDING UP FOR BASH'

Huw Irranca-Davies AM – supporting Bashir Naderi.

OGMORE AM Huw Irranca-Davies has added his name to a list of Welsh Government Assembly Members who are calling on the UK Government to overturn their decision to forcibly remove Cardiff citizen Bashir Naderi from the UK.

Bashir Naderi fled from Afghanistan aged 10, following his father's murder, and has spent half his life in Wales, growing up in Cardiff with a foster family. He has built a successful life here in Wales, gaining 9 GCSEs and now studying at Cardiff and Vale College.

Huw, wearing a blue ribbon in support of Bashir attended the national event 'Stand up for Bash' at the Senedd recently and said: "Bashir has made a valuable contribution to the community that has offered him refuge, and has the support of his Welsh family, and thousands of people in Wales.

"I hope the Home Office will listen to the outpouring of support in our community and reconsider their decision to return him to such an unsafe area of conflict such as Afghanistan."

Thousands of people have signed a petition to protest against Bash being deported which can be found by googling 'Change.org Bashir.'

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Speaker's talk is far from DRAB!

THE November meeting of Southerndown WI was very well attended and we were delighted to welcome back members who had been unable to attend meetings for several months.

President Michele welcomed them formally and also welcomed two potential new members, Linda and Chris, who have moved to the area recently. Michele went on to update us on forthcoming activities including a trip to the Royal Mint, our Christmas meal, and the Christmas carol service being held on December 5 in Coychurch with our Link WIs.

We were updated on the regular activites that take place – darts, the reading group, the walking group – and plans to introduce an informal craft group starting in January. More information will be given during the December meeting.

Our speaker for the evening was, unfortunately, not available at short notice, so Judith stepped into the breach, giving us a fascinating talk on an introduction to First Aid.

As a qualified First Aid trainer for St John's Ambulance, she gave us some food for thought – along with several acronyms to remember, such as DRAB. Her presentation was anything but drab and I'm sure we can all remember what it stands for!

The coffee morning for this month will take place in Lyn's house in St Brides Major on Thursday, November 24 from 10.30am. Our Christmas meal will take place on December 1 and our next meeting is on December 8 at 7.15am in the Church Hall, Southerndown Road, St Brides Major.

We hope Linda and Chris will be there again, so why don't you come along as well?

PM

FUNDS SOS FROM KPC YOUTH PROJECT

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon met KPC youth project development manager Alison Mawby last week to hear of a Christmas Challenge to raise funds.

KPC Youth has been operating for nearly 16 years in Pyle but the buildings are in need of repair and funding opportunities are scarce, she said.

"The centre provides a wide variety of opportunities to young people, from mentoring to computing, from table tennis to social and soft skills.

"Prior to the opening of KPC, youth anti-social behaviour and drug use were major problems in the community. Now young people have a safe and supportive environment in which to socialise and develop during their adolescence.

"Alison explained to me the dire situation they are in and how time is running out for KPC, and help is needed NOW. I know at this time of year money is tight with Christmas approaching, but please join the Christmas Challenge and donate what you can to KPC Youth; your donation will be doubled!

"Please support KPC Youth to keep this much needed local centre open," the MP urged.

The Christmas Challenge offers supporters of charities the opportunity to have their donation doubled on theBigGive.org.uk when the campaign goes live on November 29, #GivingTuesday.

KPC Youth & Community has signed up to the Big Give Christmas Challenge for this year – and are currently through to Stage 2 of their application to raise £10K to help with core costs.

Social media could damage the young's health – *MP warns*

"SOCIAL media could have an adverse effect on the mental health of young people. With sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat, the pressure on young people to keep up with trends is continuous," the Ogmore MP Chris Elmore has warned.

"When people use social media to post about their lives, and how they spend their weekends and their holidays, teenagers will compare their lives, too," he said.

"Inevitably, some will see themselves as having less interesting or exciting lives to their peers, which can be damaging to their self-esteem. Of course, it is not only friends and families that young people will be comparing themselves too – social media gives the opportunity to follow celebrities, which gives way to even more distant and unrealistic standards to aspire to."

He said: "During the 1990s, the Tamagotchi craze created fears that the well-being of children was being harmed by the obsession to keep a virtual animal alive. Parents across the world banned the devices after claims that they had replaced human relationships and had left children seeming distant and isolated – in hindsight, it is easy to see that many had overreacted.

"History should serve as a reminder that we can often get ahead of ourselves when a new technology plays a role in our lives – social media is having adverse effects on the mental health of young people, but it is not inherently bad," the MP added.

He was speaking in a House of Commons debate when he raised these concerns.

LAPWINGS IN NEED OF A LIFE RAFT!

THE Wildlife Trust of south and west Wales is raising funds for an new exciting project at Bridgend's Parc Slip Nature Reserve, to help save a declining species.

A Lapwing chick at Parc Slip.

The 300-acre nature reserve, formerly an opencast coal mine, is home to over 1,000 species of wildlife, including great crested newts, grass snakes, bee orchids and Lapwing.

"Lapwing were once a common farmland bird. However, in recent decades these habitat types have been disappearing from the Welsh landscape, resulting in a drastic decline of Lapwing in Wales. In the mid-1990s Parc Slip had up to 19 pairs of breeding Lapwing, but in spring 2014 just one pair of Lapwing nested at the reserve," a spokeswoman said.

"Over the past two years, the staff and Lapwing Champion volunteers at Parc Slip have been working throughout the autumn and winter to carry out vital conservation work to increase the number of Lapwing that successfully breed on the reserve.

"It has been supported by players of the People's Postcode Lottery, who have raised £148.3 million for good causes to date around the UK. It has also been funded by SITA Trust and Bridgend County Borough Council, and has involved over 350 volunteer hours."

The next stage of the Lapwing project is to create an artificial floating island on the Northern Wetlands Lake at Parc Slip to provide a safe area for the Lapwing nests and eggs. This raft would be out of reach of land-based predators and the Lapwing would be able to defend off aerial predators.

For more information or to become a Lapwing Champion and volunteer on the reserve visit www.welshwildlife.org/visitor-centres/parc-slip-visitor-centre/.

Advent fair at St Illtyd's Church

AN Advent fair will be held at St Illtyd's Church, Newcastle in Bridgend on Saturday, November 26.

Entry to the fair, which opens at 10.30am, is £3 and includes a mince pie and a hot drink.

Anyone wishing to make a donation of cakes or raffle prizes, or simply to come along on the day to start Christmas and admire the ancient parish and church of Bridgend, set high above the town adjacent to the castle, should visit Facebook and search for @saintilltydbridgend.

To be held at 6.00pm on Wednesday 30th November

The school is proud to hold its **Annual Open Evening** for those students who wish to enter the sixth form in September 2017.

Any student or parent interested can obtain more details and the "welcome pack" by emailing: **year12openevening@porthcawlschool.co.uk**

Alternatively you may telephone **01656 774100.**

Porthcawl is a traditional school with a proven track record of excellence for all in Years 12 and 13. AS and A2 results consistently compare very favourably with local and national figures.

A Level Results 2016

- **99% of pupils achieved grades A*- E**
- **30% were at grades A*/A**
- **82% were at grades A*- C**
- **An incredible 360 A Level papers were sat and 23% of pupils secured a place at a Russell Group University**

Again many pupils joined Porthcawl for the sixth form from other schools. Please find further information at **www.porthcawlschool.co.uk**

Our Estyn inspection report was very positive and we were proud to read that:

"One of the school's strengths is the exceptional working relationship between teachers and pupils. The school has a strong ethos based on fairness and this creates a caring and disciplined environment."

"The school works highly effectively with a range of partners and this work has a significant impact on pupils' wellbeing and achievement. Collaboration with other providers ensures that sixth form students can choose from a comprehensive range of academic and vocational courses."

"In the sixth form, students perform above the family and Wales averages for both the level 3 threshold and wider capped points score. ... Both boys and girls achieve well at the level 3 threshold and in 2012 there was virtually no gap between their relative performance."

VALE PEOPLE FIRST GET HEALTH AWARD

VALE People First 'Real Lives' members were commissioned by Public Health Wales to produce the cover of its annual quality statement.

They had to show what makes their community a happy one, what's important to them.

Here they are (above) with the certificates awarded to them by Public Health Wales at their 2016 AGM held in Merthyr Tydfil.

Ian Swannick and Kelly Anne Rideout had the chance to talk to the audience and tell people what Vale People First stands for, having a voice, being valued members of their community, rights for people with a learning disability. They "look forward" to working with Public Health Wales again.

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Age shall not weary them...

ABOVE: Veteran Joe Norton and young Beaver, Cole Thomas, out selling poppies. RIGHT: Stan Smith.

JOE NORTON, who was 90 in May, was this year's Barry branch oldest Poppy seller and a World War Two Merchant Navy veteran.

Cole is just six years old and is 2/4 Barry Scouts' youngest Beaver. He collected for the Poppy Appeal for the very first time.

They are pictured Poppy selling together in Morrison's .

Stan Smith was 90 in July is shown collecting (second picture) for the Poppy Appeal with Cole Thomas aged six, who is a Beaver from 11th Barry Sea Scouts, and Stan was recently found to be Barry's oldest known Scout, and has been invested in 11th Barry.

He has been collecting for the Poppy Appeal for 25 years.

Teresa Goodwin
Barry RBL

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Dinas Powys production

DINAS POWYS Players present *Season's Greetings* at The Parish Hall, Dinas Powys today (Thursday, November 17) and Friday, November 18 at 7.30pm.

For tickets (£7, £6.50 concessions), call 20512868 or 21406168 or contact the Village Stores, McColls, Castle Drive.

Call for 'service pupil premium' to match English offer to Forces

CONSERVATIVES have called on the Welsh Labour Government to bring forward additional support for the children of Armed Forces' parents in Wales.

In England, they said, all children of serving members of the Armed Forces qualify for the service pupil premium, but not in Wales.

The Welsh Government had refuted the need for additional measures, claiming that Forces' children would qualify for support through mainstream funding streams – where eligible.

The issue arose during a session of the Assembly's children, young people and education committee when leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies, deputised for his party's education spokesman, Darren Millar.

Mr Davies argued that additional, targeted support was needed to support Armed Forces children.

He said: "The health and education of Armed Forces' children can be profoundly affected by the disruption which occurs when parents serve in the county.

"Having a parent who is regularly away, can be extremely difficult for young people, on top of the impact of regularly changing schools and moving home. There are also the most serious challenges that can arise in the event of bereavement or injury.

"That's why we need to ensure that all devolved levers are utilised to offer the necessary support.

"It's clear that we have a long way to go to redress the disadvantages faced by this section of the community, and the introduction of a scheme similar to the service pupil premium would be a step in the right direction for Welsh service families."

Assembly considering smoking ban outside schools and hospitals

A Welsh Assembly committee is looking at a proposed law which could see smoking banned in schools, hospital grounds, and playgrounds.

It could also see the introduction of a licensing system for acupuncture, body piercing and tattoo businesses.

The Public Health (Wales) Bill could, among other things:

• Provide an enhanced role for pharmacies in communities;

• Compel local councils to have a strategy for public toilets in their areas based on local need;

• Create a national register of tobacco and nicotine product retailers;

• Ban intimate piercing of persons under the age of 16-years-old.

At stage one of the Assembly's law-making process, the health, social care and sport committee will consider whether the Bill is necessary, whether its objectives can be achieved through already existing legislation, and whether it will achieve intended objectives.

It has opened a consultation and is calling for people to "have their say".

The committee's predecessor in the Fourth Assembly considered a similar Bill which was not passed. However, the main controversial element of that Bill, a proposed ban on the use of e-cigarettes or vaping in public places, has been removed.

"This Bill is very similar to one which was considered during the previous Assembly," said Dai Lloyd AM, Chair of the health, social care and sport committee.

"However, that is not to say they are identical and that the work has already been done.

"It is a broad-range Bill, affecting many aspects of life from smoking, to pharmacy services, public conveniences, acupuncture, piercings and tattoos.

"We would like people to consider this Bill anew and tell us whether they think it is necessary and whether it will do what it says it will."

Submissions of evidence should arrive by December 16.

Anyone wishing to submit evidence, should send an electronic copy of the submission to: seneddhealth@assembly.wales.

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Network Rail tells of temporary closure of level crossings

VALE residents have been invited to drop-in events – to learn more about temporary level crossing closures planned over the festive season – as work to deliver Network Rail's Railway Upgrade Plan continues.

The final phase of the £300m Cardiff area signalling renewal scheme – the biggest remodelling and resignalling project in Wales ever – will be fully commissioned over this Christmas and New Year.

The 'congestion-busting' scheme will help deliver a more reliable railway across the Cardiff and Valleys network as Network Rail prepares the railway for the arrival of a new fleet of 'bigger, faster and greener' electric trains.

Some of the existing signal boxes will be closed and all signalling transferred to the Wales route operations centre in Cardiff.

To fully commission the scheme, some sections of the railway need to be closed for a short period to test all of the new equipment.

Temporary planned closures of five level crossings west of Cardiff will all begin at 10pm on December 24. Level crossings closed are St Fagans 8am on December 27; St Georges, 5am on January 4; Pontsarn, 8am on December 29; Llantrisant West, 8am on December 29; Rhoose, 8am on December 26.

Residents were invited to attend a drop-in event at St Fagans Village Hall on November 15 and again at Peterston-super-Ely Church and Community Hall today (Thursday, November 17) from 3pm until 6pm.

Network Rail will be on hand to provide information on this upgrade work and to answer any questions – no appointment is necessary.

During this essential final phase of the project there will be no train services late on Christmas Eve between Cardiff Central, Bridgend, Newport and the Valleys.

There will be bus replacements and service alterations in place between Cardiff Central, Bridgend, Newport and the Valleys from December 27 until January 3

Christian Irwin, programme manager for Network Rail Wales, said: "This is the final phase of the highly complex project to re-signal the railway in the Cardiff area as part of our Railway Upgrade Plan, which will modernise the signalling system in South Wales allowing more services to run along the railway, resulting in an increase in passenger capacity, particularly at peak times.

"As part of this project we have replaced ageing signalling equipment, enhanced track layouts, built new platforms and improved stations.

"We would like to thank the general public and rail passengers for their patience and understanding while we complete this essential final phase of this major upgrade project."

If you have any questions or concerns, telephone our 24-hour National Helpline on 03457 11 41 41 or email crwales@networkrail.co.uk.

Ramblers visit Adelina's castle

A PARTY of 10 walkers joined John R from Penarth and District Ramblers for a trip down west to Craig y Nos Country Park, where the castle was once owned by the famous opera diva Adelina Patti, a shrewd businesswoman, actress and singer who moved in high circles of Victorian society.

Craig y Nos, meaning Rock of the Night, captivated her and she spent the rest of her life there entertaining international figures including Edward VII.

In 1921, the castle and grounds became a hospital and served wounded patients during World War Two before its closure in 1986, and it is now run as a hotel.

On a glorious sunny morning, the group set out walking past the National Showcaves Centre at Dan yr Ogof to join a bridleway climbing north west through an area dotted with shakeholes, formed when surface water washes the top layer of boulder clay into cracks in the limestone rock underneath causing deep depressions in the landscape.

Taking advantage of one of the depressions in order to shelter from the blustery north wind, a break for morning coffee and Mike's delicious home baked cake followed.

Continuing uphill for several miles while crossing several fords, where fortunately, the water was fairly low, and climbing the flank of the escarpment to join part of the long distance Beacon's Way, they enjoyed a stop for lunch while soaking up the last of the sunshine.

Then, reaching the ridgeway at Bannau Sir Gaer and tramping to Picws Du, which at 749m is the second highest peak in the Carmarthen Fans on the Black Mountain in the western end of the Brecon Beacons National Park, a strong cold northerly wind hit them face on as skies darkened. In varied light caused by showers in some places and sunshine in others, the long distance views took on a dramatic effect towards Carreg Cennen Castle to the west and Swansea Bay in the south.

Taking the shortest route to the summit of Fan Brycheiniog at 802m the highest point, and after being battered about by strong winds, the plan to walk along the ridgeway of Fan Hir soon faded and instead the group dropped steeply down to Llyn y Fan Fawr. Stopping for a refreshment break and a second round of cake from John, the Beacons Way led them back down the valley and during their long descent the winds eased and the sky began to clear by the time they reached their cars.

On November 19, meet at 8.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre at 8am for an 11-mile hard walk from Mountain Ash, taking in Aberfan to remember the 50th anniversary of the Aberfan disaster and back via Mynydd Merthyr; contact Rachel on 01446 410545..

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

CYLCH MEITHRIN FAIR

Cylch Meithrin, Llanilltud Fawr will hold their winter fair on Saturday, November 19 from 11am – 1pm at Llantwit Major Rugby Club.

Stalls will be selling homemade confectionery and chutneys, skincare, Christmas and children's crafts, and ceramics. There will also be a photographer, to take those family Christmas shots. This is an opportunity to make a start on your Christmas shopping or just treat yourself!

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ST NICHOLAS SCHOOL HONOURS THE FALLEN

ON Wednesday, November 9, Class 4 at St Nicholas C/W Primary School had the honour of representing the children of Wales at the national service to open the Cardiff Field of Remembrance.

The Royal British Legion had arranged a special plot for the school to plant crosses with their own personal messages and then participate in the service of Remembrance.

Violet Shelbourne (year-5 councillor) added: "I wrote a special message on my cross to my granddad who was a prisoner of war."

Lucy Bevan (year-6 councillor) summed up the importance of the day by stating: "We have Remembrance Day to remember all the soldiers who died in World War One, World War Two and any wars since, we will never forget them and their memory will live on for a long time."

The children listened respectfully throughout the service. They were visibly moved by the reading of the poem *Mametz Wood* by First Minister Carwyn Jones, the blessing from Canon Stuart Lisk and singing *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau* and *The National Anthem* from the Military Wives Choir and British Imperial Military Band.

Taya Griffith, a year-5 councillor said: "I loved listening to the Military Wives Choir; they sounded so graceful and really made me think of all the soldiers who have fought in past wars and their courage to give us our freedom."

Some children and our teacher were interviewed by Wales online and by reporter Nick Pallit from BBC Wales. This gave them the opportunity to thank all the brave soldiers and reflect on their own personal experiences. On Friday, November 11, Class 4 shared the importance of remembrance with the rest of the school, explaining the importance of the British Legion and the poppy.

The whole school then gathered around the village memorial for a reading from the poem *For the Fallen*, the playing of *Last Post*, and the Silence, which was impeccably observed.

The children of St Nicholas will always remember the brave soldiers that fight for our freedom.

Report written by school councillors Lucy Bevan, Sofia Pritchard, Taya Griffith and Violet Shelbourne and Jason Downey.

Flu spray for tots

CHILDREN aged between two and seven across Cardiff and the Vale are being vaccinated against influenza in time for winter.

As the weather turns colder, parents are being urged to get their children protected with a nasal spray to avoid catching the potentially dangerous virus. The spray is safe and pain-free.

While flu is not yet circulating widely, some cases are already being reported in Wales, making this the ideal time to get the vaccine.

Two and three year olds, and four year olds not yet in school, can get the nasal spray from their GP.

Children can only receive the vaccine if their parents have returned a consent form to the school. It is vital that parents remember to give consent.

There is a higher risk of serious illness from 'flu among children, compared with healthy adults.

Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Dr Tom Porter, said: "We know that children are good at spreading bugs around, especially when they mix with other children.

"Although parents are used to children picking up minor illnesses from time to time, flu can be a more serious and potentially life-threatening condition, so it is well worth taking up the offer of the nasal spray to help protect your child."

The programme runs in schools until December, by which time around 36,000 children in Cardiff and Vale will have been offered the vaccine.

Bazaar

A CHRISTMAS bazaar will be held in the All Saints' Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth on Saturday, November 19 from 10am – 12pm. Entry £1, plenty of cakes, gifts, books and more. All proceeds to charity.

Big Screen

BIG Screen's next film for this season is Florence Foster Jenkins (Cert PG) on Thursday, November 24 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

Doors open at 7.10pm and tickets £4 (available in advance from the Town Clerk's office, or on the door on the night.

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Citizens Advice makes elderly Pension Wise

CITIZENS Advice, Cardiff and Vale, has welcomed new independent figures which show the success of Pension Wise, that the local charity delivers across the area.

"An Ipsos Mori survey of nearly 2,000 Pension Wise customers across the UK revealed that 85% of people said that the guidance they received means they now have a better understanding of their pension options," a spokesman said.

Nearly nine in 10 (89 per cent) of those who have an appointment go on to take further action on their pension saving.

Following the pension reforms in April 2015, people approaching retirement have greater freedom over how they can use their pension pots. With a number of options available, people are now able to take a lump sum, take out an annuity or a mixture of both.

Big Volunteering Fayre

GLAMORGAN Voluntary Services (GVS) will be hosting The BIG Volunteering Fayre on Wednesday, January 18 from 11 am – 4pm at Barry Memorial Hall.

The BIG Volunteering Fayre is an ideal opportunity to showcase your charity and community group to promote volunteering opportunities, to recruit more volunteers and for organisations needing extra support.

If you represent an organisation and would like to attend the volunteering fayre and book a stall, telephone 01446 741706, email: enquiries@gvs.wales, or visit www.gvs.wales.

Valeways walks

ON Wednesday, November 23 at 10am, 'Afon Elai a Bae Cerdydd/Ely river and Cardiff Bay', starting at Gorsaf Reilffordd, Cogan CF64 2NS.

At 10.30am on November 23, the Cosmeston Coffee Shop Strollers meet outside the visitor centre, Cosmeston Country Park.

Also on Wednesday, November 23 at 2.30pm, the Llantwit Major Coffee Shop strollers meet at Llantwit Major Town Hall car park.

On Sunday, November 27 at 2pm, Santa ai' geirw/Santa's in town at Eglwys St John Baptist, Llanblethian.

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Locally Cloudy2Clear service Cardiff & surrounding areas and Welsh business owner Phil Powell agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

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REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY IS OBSERVED IN KENFIG HILL

Staff and cadets muster before the parade.

AT Kenfig Hill, the Royal British Legion Remembrance Day service and parade was co-ordinated by Harold Phillips, Clerk to Pyle Community Council.

The programme for the service and parade was produced by the Royal British Legion's Kenfig Hill & District branch and Pyle Community Council.

It commenced at St Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill, and was conducted by the Rev Jonathan Durley, CA and Rev Len Grabham, Pisgah Chapel, Kenfig Hill, with support from Rev Deacon Claire Stowell and parish reader Grace Wylde.

There was a full choir led by parish warden and organist David–Lloyd Jones and the altar was decorated for the occasion with an embroidery of poppies beautifully worked by church member Enid Rymer. The congregation filled St Theodore's church and porch with many having to stand throughout the service. Again, this year there was a record turn-out of youngsters from the local schools, Scouting associations and Air Cadets with representatives from each group forming part of the flag bearing guard of honour.

STAFF and cadets from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron RAF Air Cadets took part in this year's Poppy Appeal collection in Asda Stores, Pyle in support of the Royal British Legion.

They also took part in the Remembrance Service parade at Kenfig Hill.

Flight Sergeant (ATC) Richard Peckham was again this year's parade marshal. The weather kept fine and both the service and parade went well, and was well attended by the local community.

The RAF Air Cadet poppy wreath was laid this year by Cadet Griffiths.

Squadron Leader Barry C Thomas, OC 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron said: "It is always an honour for the squadron to take part in the service and parade of Remembrance. It is an occasion that is always remembered by staff and cadets for the importance that it marks in tribute to all those who have given service in times of conflict past and present."

LINDSAY THOMAS
CWC secretary.

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Cefn Cribwr concert honours the Fallen

BETHLEHEM Church Life Centre, Cefn Cribwr was the venue for a marvellous weekend concert, where proceeds supported the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

The concert was always going to be of a high standard and mixed entertainment, as in addition to Bridgend Male Choir, contributing to the musical fayre was the Llynfi Valley's exceptional mixed choir, Noteworthy.

Soloists, were soprano Sally Ann Kingsbury and cellist, Stewart Roberts. There were also narrations from Jane Mullins and Peter Morgan, with *Last Post* played on trumpet by Geraint John.

It was a busy evening for musical director Ryan Wood, who for the first time was conducting both of his choirs at the same performance – and didn't he do well? He also accompanied both soloists showing what a real talent he is – this in addition to accompanying the renowned Only Men Aloud on their current tour.

Ryan's great piano playing talent was shared by BMC's accompanist, Stephanie Bailey and by Stewart Roberts in support of the mixed choir, not to mention Scott Williams, whose organ accompaniment brings the very best out of many musical offerings.

Bridgend Male Choir showed why they had received standing ovations in Dublin and Drogheda last week, delivering their content with familiar aplomb. Highlights were from the American Civil War, *Tell My Father* with Dr Peter Morgan's oratory of the Gettysburg Address, *For the Fallen* and *Mansions of the Lord*.

Noteworthy choir was spot on with diction and tone and musically provided a contrast. Favourites for the author were Karl Jenkins' 'Benedictus' from the *Armed Man*, with cello and piano accompaniment; the Jeffrey-Howard arranged 'Gwahoddiad' and the hymn tune *Builth*'(same arranger), which BMC is currently learning.

Better known as musical director of premier Welsh male choir, Pendyrus, cellist Stewart Roberts is no stranger to Bridgend Male Choir, helping out accompanying from time to time.

It was known that he is a musical all-rounder and his instrumental cello portrayal of *Nella Fantasia* was very well received by all present. Like the other musicians on show, Stewart is a multi-talented genius.Wales is so fortunate to have such talent as was on show on the evening and elsewhere, helping to ensure a very strong future for its many choirs. Sally Ann sang the very popular Sherwin/Maschwitz's A *Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square* with beautiful tune and clarity, thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

All the narrators and the compere, Gareth J Davies, deserve credit for their significant contributions.

Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau concluded what had been an exhilarating evening. All contributors are grateful to BCLC for making its first class facility available for such worthy charitable causes.

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Ambassadors' evening lifts the profile of High Sheriff's youth awards

Sheriffs all: Gwyn George, the High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan, Anne Morgan, former High Sheriff, David Davies, High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan in nomination, Jayne James, former High Sheriff, Jon Wall, High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan in nomination.

Ambassadors - Coun Megan Butcher, deputy Student Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil Lauren Davies, Girl Guiding Commissioner, Felicity Ladbrooke; student Mayor Merthyr Tydfil Sacha Neave Thomas; former RCT Mayoress Barbara Stephens; former RCT Mayor Barry Stephens.

PLANS to make the High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan Youth Community Awards an even bigger and better event, were put in place at an evening event hosted by former High Sheriff Jayne James at her home, Longlands Farm in Pyle.

The awards were set up in 2008 by another former High Sheriff, Anne Morgan, when founder sponsors Sony, Ortho-clinical Diagnostics, the Deere Family, and Sheppards the Chemist all pledged donations to get the trust off the ground.

The trust committee was then able to select young people who had gained outstanding achievements in the community, and award cash prizes.

Last year, the committee secured more sponsors and fundraising, raised the first prize to £1,000, and decided it was time to introduce Ambassadors to spread the word about how deserving youngsters could benefit from receiving this sum of money.

Ambassadors present were Girl Guiding Commissioner Felicity Ladbrooke, Coun Megan Butcher, former RCT Mayor Barry Stephens, Student Mayor from Merthyr Tydfil Sacha Neave Thomas and her deputy Lauren Davies.

They were joined by sponsors from Sony and OCD, this year's High Sheriff Gwyn George, and future High Sheriffs David Davies and Jon Wall and guests.

Anne Morgan explained that the awards had been formed during her year in office and Jayne James talked about the committee's aim to move forward with the awards, and widen the net to attract even more candidates.

She also announced that a website will soon go live, explaining how to propose a candidate for selection. She reminded guests of the criteria needed to apply: "Entrants must be between 11 and 21 and live within the Shrieval county, which makes up Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil counties.

"If a student is doing something outstanding at home, school or within these communities, he or she could be eligible to win a cash prize of £1,000."

The website www.highsheriffawards.wales is scheduled to go live soon and will include information on how to propose candidates. The closing date for entries is January 27, 2017 and the awards evening will be held on March 23.

Fashion show raises funds for the High Sheriff's Youth Trust

PROSECCO and canapés were on the menu at the Olive Tree restaurant as Loulou Boutique held its autumn fashion show, raising funds for the Mid Glamorgan High Sheriff Youth Trust Awards.

It brought together a group of fashion-followers who were treated to a snapshot of the boutique's autumn collections.

They were entertained by talented singer Richie Jones, with his repertoire of popular songs.

The well-attended event raised £600, which will go towards the High Sheriff Youth Trust, rewarding youngsters with cash prizes for their outstanding achievements in the Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil counties.

For more information on the awards go to www.highsheriffawards.wales.

Four Lions and a heron spotted in Bridgend...

Reader C THOMAS writes:
"This photo was taken at the Festival of Light/Lantern Parade organised by Bridgend Town Council.
"Four of Bridgend Lions, with partners, took part in the marshalling of this fantastic parade.
"Lion Sarah Harris can be seen being harnessed to the heron with Lion president John Paton standing by. Sarah very bravely skirted the main streets in the centre of the town leading the parade, which consisted of dancers and many children."

Out & About with The GEM

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Denis Villeneuve's 'Arrival' is one of the films of the year...

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

DENIS VILLENEUVE hasn't put a foot wrong since making his Hollywood breakthrough with *Prisoners* in 2013. *Enemy* was a study in psychological terror, while drug cartel thriller *Sicario* was one of the most compelling films of last year.

While he is currently filming *Blade Runner 2049*, a sequel to Ridley Scott's 1982 classic, his latest film sees him tackle science-fiction in *Arrival*.

Amy Adams plays linguist Dr Louise Banks, who is called upon by the US Government when spaceships start appearing around the world. Tasked with translating what they are saying and communicating with the ships, Banks, along with Ian Donnelly (Jeremy Renner), must try and bring the world together – do the spaceships come in peace or with something more sinister in mind...

Alien spaceships descend on Earth; a panicked planet wonders just what they are here for, while Government agents set about solving the puzzle of their emergence in our skies – *Arrival's* set-up is one that cleaves close to any number of 'alien' films, from *Independence Day* to *The Day The Earth Stood Still*.

Yet on this most familiar of frameworks, director Denis Villeneuve and screenwriter Eric Heisserer have created one of the most engaging, emotionally-captivating and intelligent films of the year, one that takes what could have been cliched and predictable and enriches it with smarts and heart that makes it linger with you long after viewing.

Villeneuve is quickly developing a reputation for building on formula; after all, when the likes of *Sicario* and *Prisoners* are stripped back then they are, at heart, genre films. But it's Villeneuve's ability to get the characters to connect that lifts them, and this film is no different.

On the surface cliches abound, whether it's Amy Adams' troubled linguist professor, seemingly drawn off from the world around, and who sees the task of translating the alien messages as a call to arms, the harried running of various soldier and government officials as they seek to find out the aliens' purpose, or the fact that not everyone views these visitors as peaceful.

But what is clever is the way these are folded into the story; this is, in its own way, a tale about humanity, about faith and overcoming tragedy, one that is told directly from inside the small camp based around the alien craft.

We see glimpses of the outside world (looting and a general unease about the situation) and how other countries are responding to these alien crafts, but these just add more flavour to what is already a heady story.

As the plot unravels, we learn why the aliens are here, and how Louise's importance to the plot increases, Villeneuve carefully balances this with a race-against-time element that, while slightly formulaic, adds another degree of tension that lifts the film towards a climax that is both heartfelt and perfectly-judged.

The performances are tremendous, Amy Adams shining in the lead as Louise, perfectly capturing her weariness and subsequent desire to get across the aliens' true message at all costs, while Jeremy Renner may not have much to work with opposite her, but the pair dovetail very nicely and make for an engaging lead pair.

The rest of the cast is filled out well with strong actors granting familiar characters a degree of depth, whether it's Forest Whitaker's army colonel whose faith in the pair is tested, or Michael Stuhlbarg's shadowy and pessimistic agent who isn't prepared to give these new visitors to Earth the benefit of the doubt.

It all adds up to a smart and engaging mix, one that pulls you one way and then the other before ending the film with a low-key climax that couldn't be further away from the generic blockbusters that its premise cleaves so close to.

And it's that that makes *Arrival* so powerful, so engaging; it's all about subtlety, not alien v human shootouts and aerial spaceship dogfights, but about the battle within humanity to do the right thing, to take a risk with the unknown.

It's a film that, based on the events of the past week across the pond, proves that not all is lost, that we can do better – and there no stronger feeling than that.

VERDICT: One of the year's highlights, *Arrival* is an intelligent, thought-provoking and emotionally-engaging take on a genre archetype, brought superbly to life by director Denis Villeneuve and writer Eric Heisserer. With strong performances from the cast, it's a film that will resonate long after the credits roll. *Essential viewing*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Sicario* (2014), *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (1977).

A warm festive welcome awaits at Studio SixtyFive!

YOU will be greeted with a warm festive welcome over the forthcoming weeks at Cardiff's premier photography studio, located on Freeman's Parc, Penarth Road.

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What's on, and where?

Tai Chi

FREE Tai Chi sessions started on November 16.

The venue for the second session on November 23, is Gladstone Park, Gladstone Road, Barry.

This is a basic Tai Chi session, where Tai Chi and Chi Gung practitioners will demonstrate softening exercises to strengthen the core and improve the balance.

Please note: these sessions are not official teaching classes, but a sharing of skills and knowledge.

Although the organisers do not anticipate any ill effects, and this would be highly unlikely, those participating do so at their own risk, they warn.

Those with health concerns are advised to first consult with their GP.

Contact PCSO Rhiannon Cummings for further details, or to book a place on 079707 36885.

Healthy craft fair!

THIS Saturday, November 19, from 12 noon – 4pm, a health and wellbeing event offers a free health check while shopping for festive gifts at St mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry.

You'll be able to get your blood pressure checked, speak with representatives from charities and find out more about what Barry Town Council does, from the Mayor!

Councillors' surgery

INDEPENDENT Sully and Lavernock councillors Kevin Mahoney and Bob Penrose will hold a residents' surgery and coffee morning on Saturday, November 19 between 11am and 12.30pm in the Old School Rooms, South Road, Sully.

All proceeds to the Sully and Lavernock Community Library Trust. Feel free to come along and raise any issue that you feel needs to be aired, or questions that you would like answered in an informal atmosphere.

Bear Pak market

CHILDREN'S holiday and after-school club Bear Pak, based in Penarth, will hold a Christmas market on November 19 at Holy Trinity Church, Woodlands Place, Penarth.

All kinds of crafts, preserves, toys, food hampers and Christmas gift ideas, plus refreshments and a raffle will be there. The fair will take place from 12.30pm – 3pm.

Care and Repair at Age Connects

IF you are a home owner or private tenant living in the Vale; elderly, disabled, possibly in need of advice and support on repairs or home improvements, Care and Repair Cardiff and Vale can help.

Advice on grants is available, plus information on reputable companies to use at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale on Tuesday, November 22 from 10am – 12pm.

Come to the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry; no appointment needed.

Telephone 01446 732385 for further information.

SCAMS are a big issue for the elderly, as people can be easily tricked, whether it be online, by telephone, or face to face.

If you have been the victim of a scam and want help reporting it, come along to Age Connects on Tuesday, November 22 from 10am to 12 pm. You can talk to an adviser who specialises in this; leaflets and information will be available on the latest scams and how to deal with them.

Call the Age Connects number above for further information.

AGE Connects will be holding a Christmas fair on Tuesday, November 29 in the Civic Offices Corporate Suite, from 10am – 12pm; admission is free.

A range of attractive stalls, including cakes, crafts made by Age Connects Stitch and Bitch; home-made Christmas decorations, jewellery, tombola, refreshments and a prize draw. *Tickets 20p.*

DIY festive greetings

FREE computer classes at Atlantic College offer the chance to create your own computer-produced festive messages to send to loved ones and friends.

The students will help people make and produce their own digital greetings cards and letters on November 22, November 29 and December 6. Laser cutouts and printed products included.

All computing abilities welcome.

Call Christine on 01446 799076 for more information.

Clairvoyance evening

CADOXTON Christian Spiritual Church are holding their last evening of clairvoyance for 2016 on Thursday, November 24, with medium Julian Jenkins.

Doors open 6.30pm, the service lasts from 7pm – 8.30pm. Admission £5, on the door. *All are welcome; proceeds to church renovation.*

Cor Meibion Maesteg ar Cylch

ON Friday, November 25 this choir visits Pencoed Welfare Hall to perform a concert in aid of Age Connect.

The concert starts at 6.30pm and tickets (from Robert Doyle) are £5 and can be delivered.

His telephone number is 01656 669288.

NSPCC trip to Bath

THE St Hilary NSPCC committee has organised a Christmas coach trip to Bath on Saturday, November 26.

Enjoy a day out in this beautiful, historic city with its Christmas market, shops and restaurants. A visitor's pack will be available. The coach leaves Cowbridge Town Hall at 8.30am with a pick-up at Culverhouse Cross at 8.45am, and leaves Bath at 4.30pm.

Tickets are £15 from Ewa on 01446 771728 or any committee member.

Messy Church

THE next children's Messy Church at Crossway Methodist Church in Barry will be a 'Messy Christmas' on Wednesday, November 30 from 3.30pm.

There will be messy crafts, Bible stories, songs, and party food! A parent/guardian must be present.

For more details, or to book your place, contact Deacon Samantha Taylor on 406262 or deaconsam@live.co.uk. Visit our Methodist Facebook page 'Vale of Glamorgan Methodist Circuit' for information on the churches.

Bowling Club fair

THE Windsor Bowling Club will hold their Christmas fair on Saturday, December 3, at the clubhouse in Robinswood Crescent, Penarth.

There will be cake, toy, book and bottle stalls, a beautiful Christmas cake to be won, bran tub, plants and Christmas flower arrangements; bric-a-brac and a hamper raffle. *Entry £1, starting at 10am.*

Drivers sought

GOOD Neighbours in the western Vale (01446 795549) and the eastern Vale (01446 747654) have renewed their appeal for volunteer drivers to help the elderly do their shopping.

Contact Bridget Palmer, Good Neighbours volunteer co-ordinator, Unit 1, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major (CF61 1UX); 01446 795549.

Ty Hafan draw lottery winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D957.

- **£2,000:** 308989.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £7,500, was not won this week.**
- **£10: 692680, 300125, 854723, 920591, 279313, 507983, 108702, 372874, 561401, 132360, 768634, 412188, 821683, 489194, 365371, 452338, 708775, 625436, 1376262, 5170.**
- **£5: 258441, 444884, 696096, 605987, 575249, 968960, 797127, 400875, 228233, 568655, 203308, 407415, 312312, 103101, 747375, 629632, 567526, 655175, 818163, 639275, 412988, 791080, 525615, 301947, 478701, 243612, 849336, 269061, 647105, 892283, 167777, 445732, 277239, 286986, 605773, 160112, 715334, 769461, 242488, 851835, 828298, 328808, 421444, 238941, 549600, 852178, 337810, 246458, 225672, 939212, 259878, 248275, 662685, 387431, 543702, 748132, 1466, 1493, 1985402, 1883014.**

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information telephone 029 2053 2300.

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7 WINDOWS MAX 1 OPENER IN WHITE UPVC BUY NOW PAY NEXT YEAR	From £3005
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High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY
...AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

WEST END BARRY SAYS: 'LET US ENTERTAIN YOU THIS CHRISTMAS!'

Archie and Bert from 'Fanshaws Fantastical Emporium of the Impossible'. These cheeky chappies will be providing street entertainment and magic to wow the crowds on the evening the Christmas lights are switched on at High Street (See more pictures on page 23).

by GEM REPORTER

THE West End, Barry, is among the elite of Britain's local shopping areas because it has such a high percentage of independent businesses – which means it is dedicated to the best in personal service and providing something that little bit extra.

This year, it is excelling itself, with a range of events to delight all its customers.

On Friday, November 25, the lights will be switched on and there's an array of entertainment.

That's followed by a 'Fizz Night' on Thursday, December 1, at which shops will host late night shopping with wine, mulled wine and other temptations.

December 3, is Shop Local Saturday. And there's a special 'Artisan Market' on Monday, December 12.

Local businesswoman, Fay Blakeley, explained: "The switch-on event is Victorian-themed with entertainment, which starts at 4pm. Traders are promising to dress in Victorian garb – and visitors can, too!

"There will be choirs, stalls in West End, and Bro Radio will host things on the stage. The switch-on will take place at 6.30pm.

"There's a special raffle at £1 a strip. Traders have donated prizes, so all someone's Christmas shopping could be dealt with in one go!

"Proceeds will go to future West End events. Santa will be the star guest.

"The Christmas lights will also go down Island Road this year. We have to thank father and son, Mike and Jack Rudman, for that. They freely gave their time to get the lights up.

"The 'Fizz Night' will see businesses putting on a fun shopping event, with things like sparkling wine, mulled wine, special promotions, and raffles.

"The Christmas lights will all be on and there will be a great atmosphere.

"The shops will host lanterns with a letter of the alphabet, which will make up a phrase. There will be a prize for everyone who takes part.

"The Artisan Market will have lots of crafts and local produce and will run from 10am until 4pm."

*So a great line-up of events, plus outstanding shopping... Can you now see why Barry's West End is nationally recognised? (**See article below**).*

High Street, Barry, is in UK top five!

BARRY is one of the top five locations in Britain for independent shops, according to a new survey.

Figures released by the Local Data Company reveal more than 91 per cent of shops in the town's West End area are independently run.

High Street, in particular, is heavily populated by independent traders and overall, West End has the fourth highest proportion of independent shops in the UK.

Only Sparkhill in Birmingham (95 per cent), London's Portobello Road (94.7 per cent) and Goodmayes in Ilford (94.1 per cent) boast a greater concentration.

A Vale Council spokesperson explained: "To show our continuing support for town centres, the Vale will help fund a programme of Christmas events around High Street and hold regular meetings with traders to help coordinate activities.

"These include a Victorian-costumed festive lights switch on event on Friday, November 25 and a Christmas market on Saturday, December 10.

"In addition, work has also already begun on a £700,000-scheme to provide more parking spaces and improve pedestrian safety on High Street, with a total of 36 new car parking spaces being created.

"New road crossings will also be built for pedestrians that will be safer and more convenient for those with disabilities.

Coun Lis Burnett said: "High Street has so much to offer, with a diverse blend of independently-owned shops to choose from. With the festive season approaching, it is the perfect place for Christmas shopping.

"The area is part of a strong, independent Vale shopping scene, with Cowbridge and Penarth other places with a rich selection of these kinds of shops.

"The broad range of independent retail outlets around High Street provides a unique, personal touch, something consumers are increasingly searching for these days.

"Independent shops, bars and cafes are opening at their fastest rate in years and we believe the fact High Street has one of the highest proportions of these types of outlets in the country is something to celebrate."

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Meet the Grinch!

PLEASE join us for Grinch-mas at Willowmere Home Care Agency, on Friday, November 25, at 124 High Street, Barry, raising money for elderly people alone at Christmas.

Face painting, hot chocolate, Whoville Village, Grinch games, hot food, sweets, prizes and photos with the Grinch. All the fun starts at 4.30pm.

Habana's

Christmas Lunch

~ Starter ~

Homemade Broccoli & Stilton Soup (V)
Served with crusty bread roll

Smoked Salmon Roulade
Served with lemon & dill dressing

Prawn Salad
Served on crispy salad & marie rose sauce

Deep Fried Chicken Strips
Served with sweet chilli sauce & salad

Duck & Orange Pate
Served with a seasonal compote & toasted ciabatta

~ Main ~

Roast Breast of Turkey
Served with Yorkshire pudding & pigs in blankets

Pork Loin Steak
Served with a cider & wholegrain mustard sauce

Braised Beef
Beef slowly cooked with root vegetables and red wine in a rich gravy and served with parmentier potatoes

Baked Seabass Fillets
With chilli and spring onion

ALL MAIN COURSES SERVED WITH VEGETABLES, ROAST POTATOES & HOMEMADE GRAVY

~ Dessert ~

Traditional Christmas Pudding
Served with brandy sauce

Winter Berry Pavlova

Warm Rich Chocolate Brownie

Vanilla Cheesecake
With a mulled wine compote

£14.95 per person

Merry Christmas

80-81 High Street, Barry 01446 721425

AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

Meet the businesses...

Tony Hopkins of popular butchers Vic Hopkins & Son, told The GEM: "We've got our Christmas order forms ready, so customers can pop in and pick one up. To enable us to process their festive order in time, they need to fill out the form and hand it back in with a £10 deposit by Friday, December 16." For more information, tel 01446 735265.

Food for Thought has just celebrated its thirty third anniversary! All the staff would like to wish their customers a very happy Christmas. Pop in now to pick up your festive order form for home cooked meats, uncooked meats, party foods, and salads (last orders, Thursday, December 15). The deli's Scout Post collection date is Monday, December 5.

Anwarul Haoue Rahat is ready to receive all your Christmas letters and parcels at the 'best-one' Post Office.

Helen from Beautiful Lily at 92 High Street will be making lots of beautiful table arrangements, garlands and wreaths this Christmas. All are created by Helen herself and she's taking orders now.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

HIGH STREET BARRY CHRISTMAS EVENT

FRIDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2016

Order Under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
For the prevention of obstruction etc

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of the Schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do **HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT** in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be closed to all vehicular traffic, including pedal cycles, with the exception of Emergency Services Vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00.

Schedule

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Friday 25th November 2016	**High Street Barry**, between Market Street and East Street	2.00pm to 9.30pm
	Island Road Barry, between Broad Street and Queen Street	2.00pm to 9.30pm

Local signed diversions shall be in place.

Dated this 17th day of November 2016

M. E. Punter
Director of Environment & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

GORCHYMYN CAU FFORDD DROS DRO, ADRAN 16A DEDDF RHEOLEIDDIO TRAFFIG FFYRDD 1984

DIGWYDDIAD NADOLIG HEOL FAWR Y BARRI

DYDD GWENER 25 TACHWEDD 2016

Gorchymyn Dan Adran 16A Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 I atal rhwystro ayyb

RHODDIR HYSBYSIAD DRWY HYN fod Cyngor Bro Morgannwg wedi gwneud y gorchymyn canlynol dan Adran 16A Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig Ffyrdd 1984:-

yn ystod oriau penodol o'r diwrnod ac ar y dyddiad a nodir yng ngholofn 1 yr Atodlen caiff y strydoedd neu'r rhannau o'r strydoedd a nodir yng ngholofn 2 yr Atodlen honno eu defnyddio i gynnal digwyddiad perthnasol fel y disgrifir yn Adran 16(A) (1) Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig Ffyrdd 1984, mae'r Cyngor yn unol â'r pwerau a ddyfernir iddo dan Adran 16A Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 yn **GORCHYMYN AC YN CYFEIRIO** er mwyn hwyluso'r gwaith o gynnal y digwyddiad, galluogi aelodau'r cyhoedd i wylio'r digwyddiad hwnnw ac i leihau ar unrhyw effaith ar draffig a achosir gan y digwyddiad, gydymffurfiaeth â'r rheoliad canlynol:-

CYFYNGIR, ac eithrio i'r hyn y darperir ar ei gyfer yn y gorchymyn, y defnydd o'r strydoedd neu'r rhannau o'r strydoedd a nodir i'r holl draffig cerbydau, gan gynnwys beiciau pedal, ac eithrio Cerbydau'r Gwasanaethau Brys, rhwng yr oriau a nodir yng ngholofn 3 o'r atodlen a nodir. Y gosb am dorri'r rheoliad yw dirwy hyd at £1000.00.

Atodlen

Colofn 1	Colofn 2	Colofn 3
Dydd Gwener 25 Tachwedd 2016	**Heol Fawr y Barri,** rhwng Market Street ac East Street	2.00pm tan 9.30pm
	Island Road y Barri, rhwng Broad Street a Heol-y-Frenhines	2.00pm tan 9.30pm

Bydd Arwyddion i'r Gwyriad yn cael eu gosod

Dyddiedig 17 Tachwedd 2016

M. E. Punter
Cyfarwyddwr yr Amgylchedd a Thai
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Butterflies, host to hundreds of gifts, has a special upstairs Christmas shop that is legendary in High Street, a tribute to all that is wonderful about the festive season – Santa even came to open it, delighting the children. On the day a raffle was held for Noah's Ark. Search Facebook for 'Yankee Candles in Barry' for more details of one of Butterflies' most popular products. Good news – gift wrapping is free!

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High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY

Bespoke Jewellery Workshop will make your dream a reality

Rob and Geoff at Bespoke Jewellery Workshop at 4 Island Road can make your 'jewellery dream a reality'. If you go in to see them with a design idea, they will make it to order. As Rob says: "We've made some weird and wonderful things over the years." Tie pins, wedding rings, old jewellery turned into a contemporary design – they can do it all. Browse their showroom, if you want some inspiration, or want to buy an original piece as a gift.

ABOVE: Take a break from West End shopping with drinks and a bite to eat at Cwtch Coffee, 94 High Street – it's renowned for its friendly atmosphere.

If you are looking for a beauty treatment or a little pampering in the lead-up to Christmas or for a staff party, The Beauty Clinic at 43 High Street has a great reputation for delivering high quality treatments by highly trained and qualified beauticians. The owner Michaela aims to use the most up to date technology and the latest is Comcit (TM) a treatment that smooths facial skin for a more youthful look. The Beauty Clinic specialises in all aspects of beauty treatments including waxing, nail extensions and facials. To book an appointment, call 01446 743222.

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High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY
...AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

THAT SPECIAL GIFT IS ON YOUR DOORSTEP...

Giggles Toy Shop hosts a wonderful collection of high quality, traditional toys.

RIGHT: Miss Holmes stocks top brands like the sparkly and highly collectable Annie Haak jewellery. The owner Nicola wishes all her customers a 'Very Happy Christmas'.

Boosting Wales and the Welsh economy is Fay at 'Homemade Wales' located at 5 Island Road. Every product in the shop is produced in Wales.

INDEPENDENT shops are renowned for sourcing the very best products to keep their customers happy.

West End Barry is blessed with entrepreneurs determined to provide high quality and good prices, meaning you don't have to spend time and petrol going to Cardiff or a distant retail park.

A new entry on High Street is **Design 99** owned by Lana Nova.

Lana explained: "We opened in May and this is our first Christmas. We are a home accessories and 'unusual gift' shop.

"We do Dimplex fireplaces, candles, Bronte throws and cushions, handbags, money boxes, mugs, and the Santoro Gorjuss gift range."

Lana also sells her Russian art collection, for people who want something that little bit different.

Giggles Toy Shop owner Jill has a wonderful collection of high quality, traditional toys.

The shop is bright and spacious and stocks traditional, durable wooden toys, children's books in English and Welsh, cuddly toys, board games, party costumes, dolls' houses, ornaments and puzzles.

In February, Jill will celebrate four successful years on High Street. On Christmas Eve, a Saturday this year, Jill will stay open until mid-afternoon for people wanting to pick up last-minute presents.

Someone with a talent for sourcing top quality gifts is Nicola, the owner of **Miss Holmes**.

Nicola said: "We're now in our eighth year and I want to say a big 'thank you' to everybody who has supported us.

"We're a business for local people who can't get into Cardiff. I started during the recession, determined to do something for where I live, and we've gone from strength to strength."

Nicola stocks top brands like the sparkly and collectable Annie Haak jewellery, a range that was inspired in an unusual way.

Annie's husband Jonny was involved in a motorcycling accident in Bali and she flew to his bedside. While there she began sketching jewellery designs and found a local silversmith who transformed them into sterling silver charms. Now there's a huge range of bracelets, necklaces, rings and ear-rings – and Nicola is your local supplier!

She also stocks other top gift brands Katie Loxton, Joma Jewellery, Qudo, Ted Baker and Ashleigh and Burwood of London. A browse at Miss Holmes is definitely recommended.

Fay Blakeley, who owns **Homemade Wales**, is wishing everyone a 'very Welsh Christmas'.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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- Emile Et Rose
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Pick up that special gift...

Lana Nova of Design 99, at 99 High Street, has an array of products and gifts to browse this Christmas, including fireplaces, candles, Bronte throws and cushions, handbags, and the Santoro Gorjuss gift range.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22)

She has established a Welsh 'gift boutique' at 5 Island Road, specialising in handcrafted gifts and homewares made only in Wales.

She said: "As the nights draw in and it gets chillier, its the right time for Welsh tweed throws and comfy cushions. Time to cwtch up on a cold night!

"Our tweed scarves, which are all woven, are made round the Brecon Beacons."

Fay's tweeds, scarves and Welsh blankets are high quality and can become family heirlooms to pass on to the next generation.

She is looking foward to seeing people at the Amelia Trust Christmas Fair at Cottrell Park Golf Resort this Saturday, November 19, 11am-4pm.

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High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY
...AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

The Smelly Shop has that 'touch of class'...

and issues an invite for December 1!

'The Smelly Shop' based at 100 High Street, Barry, is a stylish fashion, home accessories and fragrance business run by Emma (*above*) and Ceri.

The ladies are about to celebrate their second Christmas on High Street. Their enthusiasm is infectious – and no wonder when you see their alluring range of products. As you enter, the scents are intoxicating!

They stock Lily-Flame Candles which will bring a lovely fragrance to your home; they are an official supplier of products by The Soap Shop which are fresh, natural and organic; they're passionate about their range of jewellery and Ferrari-Lane candles.

There's lots more and the ladies are inviting everyone along to a special evening on Thursday, December 1.

Emma explained: "We're having a late night Thursday with mulled wine, minced pies, discounts, and raffles. It's an opportunity for us to talk about our products with customers, and make bookings for gift baskets to be made up."

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Re-Opening Tuesday January 5th

***LEFT:** Richard Jones Carpets at 25 Broad Street, has a carpet, laminate or cushioned floor to fit every room in your house and there's still time to order and get it fitted before Christmas! The staff wish all their customers 'Happy Christmas and Happy New Year'.*

The Christmas menu is out at Habana Bar and Grill, 80-81 High Street and you can book your festive meal on 01446 721425. Habana is known for its good quality, affordable meals and is open seven days a week. It has special meal deals and its Sunday roast is very popular. Habana is open 10am to 11pm, Monday to Thursday; and 10am to 3.30am Friday and Saturday. Food is served from 10am to 3pm, and from 6pm onwards in the evenings.

*For all your coverage of Christmas in High Street, read your GEM - find us online at: **glamorgan-gem.co.uk** on Facebook at **facebook.com/Glamorgan GEM**, and on Twitter: **@gem_news***

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Plus ... Christmas Shop Upstairs
Free Gift Wrapping
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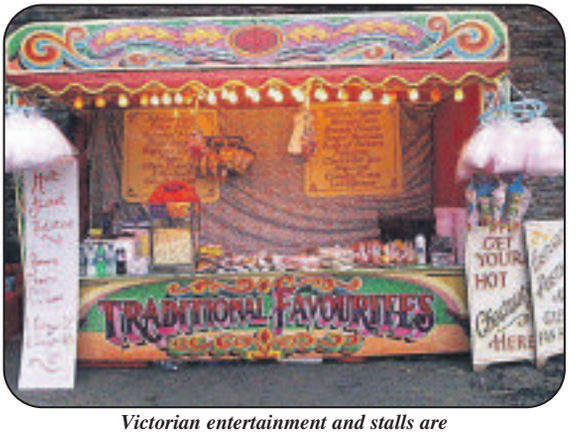
8 High Street

Let High Street entertain you!

There are fun rides at the Christmas Victorian night.



Victorian entertainment and stalls are coming to Barry's West End!

Silver Star celebrates its 125th anniversary in Barry

With the flags flying for the Coronation of King Edward VII, John Sylvester stands outside his first Wallpaper and Paint shop in High Street Barry in 1902

WALLPAPERS, paints and lots of other bargains will be on sale for only £1.25 each at the Silver Star decorating and DIY store on Barry Docks this weekend.

This is all to celebrate 125 years since John Sylvester came to the new town of Barry, from Taunton in Somerset, to found a high class decorating business.

In the late 1890s, the first shop was opened in High Street, Barry and in 1904 the business relocated to Cross Street and Station Street in Barry Dock where business continued through three generations of the family until Mrs Violet Sylvester sold the property in the 1980s.

The decorating business expanded considerably when led by the eldest son of John Sylvester – also John – and vehicle painting works were opened in Thompson Street and Kendrick Road. John Sylvester Junior was a master craftsmen, indeed an artist, a highly talented signwriter, gilder in real gold and silver leaf, wood grainer and wallpaper hanger.

The firm claimed to have worked on houses in every street in the original town of Barry and work also included decorating churches, fairground rides, steam traction engines, and the great fair organ from Barry Island fairground.

Work also included the painting of the Barry lifeboat, Barry's early buses, and of course houses and shops.

Sylvester's red-painted handcarts with yellow signwriting were familiar around Barry carrying ladders and decorating materials to and from contracts in many areas of the town.

In the early 1930s with the depression causing a reduction in work in Barry, a contract was gained from the Gelligaer District Council to maintain the coachwork and signwriting of their fleet of buses, and the Sylvester vans travelled daily from Barry to Bargoed for over 10 years.

After the death of John Sylvester in 1964, the decorating business ceased and was developed into Barry's first big decor and DIY store.

Today, the business is run by David and Terry Sylvester, grandsons of John Sylvester. Silver Star in Barry has a large selection of beautiful wallpapers and probably even more than in Cardiff. There are over 600 different wallpapers in stock at the store, all with the Silver Star guarantee which is: 'If you can find a lower price elsewhere, including online, Silver Star will give you a lower price.'

Everyone at Silver Star looks forward to welcoming many customers over the coming days, including those whose parents, grandparents and even great-grandparents will have been customers in past years, and everyone will be invited to join us in a free glass of wine (or orange juice) and slice of celebration birthday cake. **TS**

AUTHOR'S NEW BOOK

Phil Carradice.

ST ATHAN author Phil Carradice, who has written more than 50 books, has recently published a new tome, *The Call Up – A Study of National Service in Peacetime Britain* (Fonthill Media at £18.99) and as an ex-National Service soldier myself, I found myself looking back on my own National Service days.

Believe it or not, I was a cook in the officers' mess and worked alongside a civilian chef called Mrs Goddard.

I was surprised to learn that the last conscript to be called up, in 1963, was Private Fred Turner, a member of my old regiment the Army Catering Corps.

National Service in Britain began in 1947 ,and I still have my Discharge Army Book 111 dated November 2, 1956. s for my miltary conduct, I am pleased to say that of the range of military conduct gradings (1) Very Good (2) Good (3) Fair (4) Indifferent (5) Bad (6) Very Bad my CO had scored me 'Very Good'.

On the back of this pink certificate of discharge my CO had written: 'Pte Lee has been employed in the Officers' Mess as a cook. He has proved very satisfactory. He is a hard worker, clean and tidy and take an interest in his work. He is able to carry out his duties with no supervision. He is honest and trustworthy and a very reliable type.'

As it happens, the day before I got demobbed, I was put on a charge – owing to my room being in a bit of a mess. However, when I told the duty officer that I was due to be released the next day, he dropped the charges.

Like the majority of former National Servicemen who contributed their experiences to this enjoyable book, I don't regret for one minute now having to do my two years, but I must admit that at the time I was called up, I thought my whole world had come to an end!

With more than 60 contemporary images and numerous first-hand accounts, The Call Up provides fascinating perspective on National Service, and the young men who served during this period.

BRIAN LEE

Llantwit Major Boys Brigade's mixed success on the road

IT has been an extremely busy weekend for 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade; a team of three boys took part in the BB National Table Tennis Competition on November 12.

They travelled to Gloucester where they received a warm welcome. Unfortunately, they were knocked out of the competition, but the boys played very well. Well done to Morgan Edwards, Samuel Stewart and Thomas Edwards.

Then it was off to Cheltenham for the first round of the BB National Masterteam (quiz) competition, where they joined Dylan Johnston, Luke Thomas, Zac Duffin, Rebecca Eccleston and Lydia Lee.

Nationally, 43 teams have entered this competition, with only 20 going through to Round 2. Questions ranged from Bible Knowledge and sport to spot the difference and famous landmarks.

The B Team were, unfortunately, knocked out of the competition, but the A Team finished first in our group on the night (by a clear 19 points) and go through to the next round in December.

Well done to Dylan, Samuel, Morgan and Luke – good luck in December!

The company was proud to participate in Remembrance Sunday. The Anchors, Juniors and Company Section all looked very smart and it was a privilege to be able to pay our respects in this way.

Mrs D Chapman,
Officer, 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade

For the latest stories and breaking news...
glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Lively Ludo is looking for a home

LUDO

THE GEM is working with the Dogs Trust, Bridgend, to find loving homes for their canine guests.

Rhiannon from the Trust said: "Our Dog of the Week is the lovely Ludo, a one-year-old Jack Russell Terrier.

"His new owners will need to be experienced Terrier owners, as Ludo is a very active and clever boy who will need mental as well as physical stimulation or he will go looking for his own fun.

"Ludo can be let for small periods of time on his own and live with children over 14 years of age. He will need training with his dog socialisation.

"If you can offer Ludo a loving home, call us on 01656 725219, or visit our website."

Silver Star
125 YEARS CELEBRATION SALE

In the reign of Queen Victoria John Sylvester came to the new town of Barry to begin his Decorating, Wallpaper & Paint Business. The Sylvester family welcome you today to a store full of bargains to celebrate 125 years in Barry.

STARTS 9am THIS FRIDAY

WALLPAPERS
100's of rolls at £1.25 a roll

Paints - 5 litre £1.25
Matt & Silk: off white & a few colours
Also 2.5 litre & 1 litre all £1.25

Curtains & Bedding all £1.25
Curtain Materials all £1.25 yard or metre

Fabric Roller Blinds £1.25 each
& other sizes £1.95, £2.50, £2.95 choice of colours

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Childrens Wallpapers £1.25 roll

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Last few £1.25 pack

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Over 600 other wallpapers in store from £2.99 to £29 a roll

Quality Italian Vinyls
below half price £9.95 a roll

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VISIT COWBRIDGE THIS CHRISTMAS

A Magical Festive Experience

LET COWBRIDGE TAKE THE TENSION OUT OF YOUR SHOPPING OVER THIS HECTIC FESTIVE SEASON!

by PHILIP IRWIN

ABOVE: A peek inside The Pencil Case.

A warm welcome awaits at Colours.

ARE you looking forward to the mad rush of the Christmas shopping season?

...The horrendous traffic into the city centre, the struggle to find a parking space, and then fighting through the crowds as the seasonal madness takes hold?

It can all be so much simpler...

Come to Cowbridge!

You will find no long queues, and there's free parking with a wide variety of interesting shops and businesses, all ready to make your life easier and so much more relaxing.

The town still has a healthy percentage of shops that are not part of large chains, and where there is a strong chance that the person serving you is the owner!

Many of the businesses have their own supply chains that they have cultivated for years, and you will find things in Cowbridge that you won't find elsewhere.

Add to that the fact that the town has plenty of places where you can take a break – cafes, pubs, bars and eating places galore – and there is no need for the day's shopping to be stressful.

You can even wander into the Physic Garden or Old Hall Gardens – where all is peaceful – or just carry on exploring all the nooks, crannies and alleyways of a town that was put together in a highly idiosyncratic style!

It's a town which doesn't stand still, and traders here have confidence that they can maintain the town's position in the shopping sector – and keep moving onwards and upwards.

The shopping area which is called 'Old Mason's Yard', has plans to expand, and has submitted plans that will give the centre a striking new frontage, should discussions with the council bear fruit.

New in the town for this Christmas season at the Old Mason's Yard is the **'Lemon Tree Nails & Beauty Cowbridge'**, where Jayne Gooding is looking forward to the party season.

She said: "We're ready to help people celebrate and get ready! Anything from a simple manicure, a classy gel polish or a beautiful set of acrylics, We do it all. Vouchers are also available."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 26)

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The pencil case
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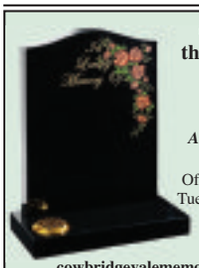
VISIT COWBRIDGE THIS CHRISTMAS

A Magical Festive Experience

COWBRIDGE OFFERS ALL YOU NEED

ABOVE: Cowbridge & The Vale Memorials.



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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25)

At the Eastgate end of town, hair salon **Fich and Ramous** is geared up for Christmas, and this year the theme is 'affordable luxury'. Claire Prior-Collins said: "It's always fun when people are looking for something special. We've lots of ideas for 'party hair' and this year we have expanded our range of hair products that make an ideal Christmas gift.

"We have also introduced a wrapping service."

In the town centre, **Jon Ian** is looking forward to its first Christmas in new premises. Esther Hitchcock said: "It's an Aladdin's Cave for Christmas gifts.

"Also, the Jon Ian Salesroom, our old shop, has an amazing sale, with Christmas bargains available at up to 80 per cent discount."

In the alleyways and courtyards behind the Vale of Glamorgan pub is **The Beehive** gift shop, run by Julie Jarvis. She is conscious of Cowbridge's reputation as a distinctive and quirky shopping area, and aims to add to that.

She said: "We have lots of lovely new products that will make great Christmas presents, and we have many bargains besides!"

Sally Stephenson runs **The Pencil Case** in Eastgate, and says that it is the place to go for unique Christmas gift ideas for the whole family.

She said: "With so many children to think about, Father Christmas often needs some help and inspiration! Pop into The Pencil Case, where the children can write a list of Christmas gift suggestions, then post their letters in our special Christmas post box and we will make sure Santa receives them.

"We also have a fantastic advent calendar containing 25 special Christmas edition Iwako collectable erasers."

She added: "The Pencil Case is not just for younger children. We have a wide range of stylish notebooks, diaries, colour co-ordinated stationery and writing pens, which any teenager or young adult would be delighted to receive."

Also in Eastgate is **Colours**, run by Julie Jeans who, with Christmas in mind, is opening every Sunday until from Reindeer Parade Day, and every Thursday (until 7.30pm from December 1.

She said: "We have new lines in for the Christmas season in Lotus Footwear and Heavenly Feet, and in January we will have this year's Mother of the Bride (or groom) range, and there is always a great deal of interest in that."

Colours also have a special promotion day today (Thursday) featuring 20 per cent off clothes by the designer Frank Lyman – plus chocolates and prosecco.

An example of the wide choice of eating places in the town is **The Shampan** Indian restaurant, where the owner, AH Chowdhury, is happy to point diners in the direction of Tripadvisor, where good reviews galore are to be found.

This year, the restaurant is open on Christmas Day, and £22 will buy either an Indian or a traditional British dinner – which could well bring different generations of a family together!

Bar 44 in the High Street is also ready for Christmas. Operations manager Natalie Isaac said: "Bar 44 is now open from 9.30 am Tuesday to Sunday for breakfast, hot drinks and churros (warm Spanish doughnuts, home-made, tossed in cinnamon sugar with chocolate sauce!)

"You can now book for breakfast, lunch or dinner in Cowbridge via our website www.bar44.co.uk

"We also have a private function room called the Beronia Lounge, ideal for private parties and Christmas meals. Why not try our whole suckling pig for parties of eight or more to share, either as a private function or as a table in the restaurant.

"For Christmas, we have a superb festive menu for lunch or dinner as well as mulled wine, cocktails and of course sherry!

"Vouchers, hampers and retail food and drink are also available, and they are ideal as Christmas presents!"

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 28)

ABOVE: The beer garden at the Horse & Groom.

ABOVE: Great Indian food at the Shampan.

Colours

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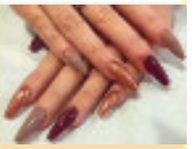

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HORSE AND GROOM

Cowbridge

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The Thang

return to the Horse and Groom raising money for Leukemia/Cancer Research Wales.

Alex Loane

will be coming out of retirement for one night only!

Raffle!

Tickets available throughout the evening - great prizes.

Cocktails

MARMALADE MARTINI - £5

(£1 donated to charity)

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VISIT COWBRIDGE THIS CHRISTMAS

A Magical Festive Experience

A FESTIVE WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR!

THE historic market town of Cowbridge attracts many visitors wishing to sample its unique atmosphere.

It is renowned throughout the region for its variety of shopping and eating opportunities, the vast majority of which are independently-owned and run.

But Cowbridge is more than shopping and eating. It is a thriving community with many organisations and voluntary groups, which enhance the town and its reputation beyonds its boundaries.

Local groups have established annual events such as the Food and Drink Festival, the Christmas Reindeer Parade, and the Cowbridge Music Festival to name but a few.

These events bring literally thousands of visitors to the town and we hope that they will return.

In more traditional vein, the pageantry of the civic parades and the Remembrance Day commemoration help bring together people of all ages and are a reminder of Cowbridge's special history, which stretches back over 800 years.

The town has many listed buildings. The town hall (incorporating the museum, housed in the former prison cells!), the old grammar school and the ancient St Quentin's Castle in Llanblethian. For peace and tranquility you can also visit the wonderful Physic Gardens.

Coun Elizabeth George
Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian.

Personal service is the key

Meet the staff at Tailor-Made Travel.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26)

At **Pebbles**, just alongside the town hall, Alison Williams is ready for Christmas. She said: "We've had lots of deliveries from all of our gorgeous labels.

"Call in to see the key looks for the season, and the fabrics, shapes and patterns that are new for autumn/winter."

Alison also has a special promotion over the three days (Friday to Sunday) of the Reindeer Parade, with 10 per cent off!

Arthur John's in the High Street has always carried a huge range of stock – it's probably easier to list the items that aren't kept in stock – and owner Alun John has a warm welcome for visitors.

He said: "We have a full range of Barbour and Joules country clothing, and we stock leading brands for kitchen equipment and tools – all ideal Christmas presents."

There was a time when travel agents would be waiting for the rush that followed all the Christmas holiday adverts on TV, but times have changed.

Tailor Made Travel opened in the town recently, and the business is built on responding to customers' needs throughout the year.

A family firm, they have been in business in Penarth for 20 years, and a new branch in Llantwit Major (in the New Year) will follow the Cowbridge opening.

Owner Simon Morgan said: "People are much more adventurous now and their interest in a country can be triggered by anything – a news story, perhaps.

"Therefore, we need to be flexible in making sure that they get what they need. We have special knowledge of the Cowbridge market, because our manager here, Carolyn Reeves, has been in the travel business for over 30 years."

Pubs are important to the festive season and in Cowbridge, the **Horse and Groom** is a popular meeting place. You can get a great range of beers, lagers and cider there – but the pub also has a wide range of gins and vodkas, with a growing range of cocktails.

Jayne Wilkinson, of the Horse and Groom, said: "Prosecco cocktails are very popular at the moment.

"Also, we are putting on something special for the Reindeer parade day, with a hog roast in our beer garden. There will be mulled wine available, too."

ABOVE: The showroom at Norma Davies Opticians.
BELOW: Fich+Ramous are ready for the party season.

Reindeer Parade welcomes the festive season in style!

COWBRIDGE'S Reindeer Parade has long set the standard for such events – and this year will be no exception.

On Sunday, November 27, the town will be buzzing from mid-morning on, as people prepare to greet the parade, which (as usual) will start at noon.

However, a good vantage point is important, so crowds tend to build up early to watch as Father Christmas and his elves travel through the town on a sleigh, pulled by his trusty reindeer.

The Reindeer Parade is organised and paid for, in the main, by the Cowbridge Chamber of Trade. The chamber's chairman, Alun John explained : "This is our annual 'thank you' to the people who come to Cowbridge to shop and visit local businesses.

"All of the collections that are taken on the day by the Lions Club will go to charities that are helped by the Lions."

He added: "We are hoping for good weather this year. last year was atrocious, so we are due a good day!"

Of course, the day doesn't end when the parade is over. there is plenty to do, right up until the switching on of the town's Christmas lights, which will be around 5.15pm.

There will be live music during the afternoon, and a craft market in the town, too, while young children will be able to see Santa in his grotto.

Santa's Grotto is run by the local Lions and a spokesman said: "As always, the Grotto will be hugely popular – so, to avoid long queues, access will be by ticket only.

"The tickets can be collected at the west entrance to the town hall on a 'first come, first served' basis from 11am on the day.

"Each ticket will grant access to one family and Santa will be in his grotto between 1.30pm and 4pm.

"There will be no charge for the tickets, but if you enjoy the experience ,a generous donation in support of the work of Lions would be much appreciated, using Gift Aid if possible."

Many shops will have special events or special offers, and the Christmas lights switch on at the town hall will be followed by fireworks from around 5.15 pm.

Local TV presenters, Lucy and Rhodri Owen from the BBC, and ITV's Ruth Wignall, will be switching on the lights – the end of a long day for them as they also take part in the Reindeer Parade.

In fact, Lucy Owen will also be doing at least one book signing – she has written a children's book to raise funds for the Noah's Ark Appeal for the Children's Hospital for Wales.

This will be at 1.30pm at the Cowbridge Bookshop, where she will be reading from the book, entitled *Boo-a-bog in the Park*.

A second book signing is also pencilled in, but details were not available as The GEM went to press.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

An established Cowbridge tradition is that Holy Cross Church holds its Christmas Tree festival over the Reindeer Parade weekend.

The beautiful old church will be filled with decorated trees – the work of local organisations, schools and voluntary groups, and is always a sight to behold.

On a hectic day, when the town is busy with Christmas revellers, it will be a haven of peace and tranquillity.

FESTIVAL GALA CONCERT

Heralding this special weekend, will be the annual concert by Cowbridge Male Voice Choir, in Holy Cross Church on the evening of Friday, November 25, at 7.30pm.

During the day, the Christmas trees will have been made ready for the festival, and the concert represents a public 'unveiling'.

The choir, with musical director Shelley Thomas Brown and accompanist Sandra Williams, will be performing songs from their extensive repertoire, and will be joined by guest soloists, Elinor Parsons and Tom Hamilton.

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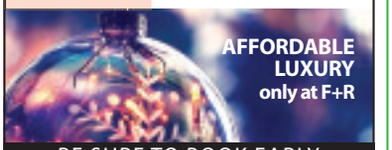

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Students enjoy a 'higher' degree of education at CAVC

LOOKING to gain a university qualification without the cost of leaving home to study? Cardiff and Vale College (CAVC) has a growing range of higher education courses and you can apply to start a course in September.

CAVC will be showcasing the university courses the college runs at the higher education open evening at its City Centre Campus on Dumballs Road on Wednesday, November 30 from 4pm – 7pm.

The college offers a range of higher education courses in partnership with universities from across the country; from foundation degrees you can top up to a full degree by taking a third year in university, right up to postgraduate study with the PGCE teaching qualification.

The open evening will offer the chance for you to find out more about the college's university courses. There will also be opportunities to chat to HE tutors, tour the campus and get a taste of what studying a university course at CAVC is like.

There are many reasons to study an HE course at CAVC. You could benefit from:

Gaining career-orientated skills and specific industry knowledge to boost your chances of finding your dream career.

The teaching and expertise of the college and its partner universities.

Access to both CAVC and university facilities.

Staying close to home while you study – save money with fewer travel and accommodation costs.

A more convenient location to fit in with your work and family life.

Courses taught in small group sizes.

Gaining a 'stand-alone' qualification or having the option to continue your study to gain a full degree.

Being able to study full-time or part-time to fit in with work or other commitments.

Gaining a stand-alone qualification with the opportunity to 'top up' to a bachelor degree.

The college works alongside the University of Birmingham, Cardiff Met, Kingston University, the University of South Wales and University of West London to give people the opportunity to gain university-level qualifications in a range of subjects, many of which are unique to the region.

CAVC students are reportedly among the most satisfied in the country, with the college rated above the national average for teaching and learning. CAVC has 'inspirational' facilities and dedicated industry-standard training centres across Cardiff and the Vale, including its new £45m City Centre Campus with its specialist HE centre.

Since 2015, over 1,000 students progressed to university level study at the college.

Students can benefit from specialist lecturers who are fully engaged with their industries and the latest trends and developments.

Register for the HE open evening and beat the queues by visiting www.cavc.ac.uk/heopen.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AT ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

ST MARY's Church, Barry, is holding its fifth Christmas tree festival this year, and is looking for local community groups, individuals, local businesses, churches and schools to display a Christmas tree of their own design in the church during the festival.

A spokesman explained: "The trees will be judged, and the one thought to be the most original will be presented with a certificate, and notification of the winners will also be put in The GEM. There will be three categories: schools, local organisations and young person entries.

"The festival will begin on Wednesday, November 30 at 7pm with the switching-on of the Christmas tree lights and announcement of the winners followed by a musical evening, including items from a youth band and the children of the town.

"Light refreshments will be provided for a ticket price of £3. All children admitted free.

"The Christmas tree festival takes place from December 1 to December 3 and the church will be open to visitors on the first and second between 10am – 4pm, and on December 3 from 10.30am to 12 noon. So come and look at the various trees on display!

"Many school choirs will be visiting us during this festival for us to listen to their wonderful voices, while we enjoy the beauty of the many trees.

"Programmes will be available that will enable all to understand the meanings of the many trees displayed. Entry to view the trees will be free to all and refreshments will be available.

"On Saturday, December 3 you can enjoy breakfast with Father Christmas among the beautiful trees; this takes place between 9am and 10.15am. It will be a breakfast of fruit, cereals, toast and soft drinks; tickets will be £5 and every child will have a gift from Santa.

"The church will then be open between 10.30am and 12pm to view the trees.

"We look forward to hearing from all those who would like to display a tree, this festival is being put together again this year for the people of Barry to take part in and to enjoy."

Entry forms will be available in all churches, and if you would like to display a tree or need further information contact Susan Borges on 01446 747928 or 07866 078665; or email borges888@btinternet.com.

REINVENTING THE CONSERVATORY ROOF REPLACEMENT & CONSERVATORY UPGRADE OPTIONS

As few as five years ago, polycarbonate would have been the main choice for a conservatory roof.

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The first is a lightweight, 'tiled' roof that takes its design cues from the slates and tiles found on most UK houses.

Created using aluminium panels, with Kingspan insulation, these conservatory roofs can achieve a u value of just 0.18, similar to that of a normally constructed, modern roof.

With this roof option, the interior of the conservatory can include a plastered ceiling with down-lighters or even roof windows for ventilation and sky views.

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BAVO recognises the importance of local volunteers at its annual award ceremony

BRIDGEND Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) recently held its annual Bridgend County Borough Volunteer Achievement Awards 2016 at the Heronston Hotel in Bridgend.

The awards are designed to recognise and honour people and organisations that have made a contribution to the community in the last year.

Compèred by Lee Jukes from Bridge FM, guests included Chris Elmore MP, Huw Irranca-Davies AM, the Mayor and Mayoress of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Reg Jenkins and Teresa Jenkins, the Mayor and Mayoress of Bridgend Town, Couns Rob Morgan and Nicole Rees, and Couns Huw David, Charles Smith and Ceri Reeves and Tenovus Cancer Care choir.

BAVO's chief executive, Heidi Bennett said: "Volunteers are the lifeblood of our community. They give their time and skills selflessly to support others. It is fit and proper to recognise their contribution and the positive impact they have on people's lives."

Volunteer Achievement Awards winners were:

Befriending and Mentoring Award (sponsored by Valleys to Coast) – Sarah Boswell-Jones from Scope – Community Companions.

Volunteer of the Year Award under-25 (sponsored by Graham Paul Accountants) – Megan Curling from AYPD.

Volunteer of the Year Award over-25 – Lara French from Y Bont.

Trustee of the Year Award – John Noble from Emmaus South Wales.

Charity Shop Volunteer of the Year Award – Elliot Davies from Ty Hafan.

Sports Volunteer of the Year Award – Carl Tidball from the Ultimate Dance Crew Caerau.

Volunteer Project of the Year Award (sponsored by United Graphic Design) – Community Furniture Aid.

Outstanding Volunteer Contribution Award (sponsored by Handelsbanken) – Jill Grange from the Bridgend National Autistic Society.

Highly Commended certificates were presented by Huw Irranca-Davies AM who said: "It's always a privilege to support these awards, which show the inspirational and selfless acts of volunteers giving their time and effort to help others in their communities and families."

Certificates were presented to: Joe Allen from AYPD, Alyssa Davies from Menter Bro Ogwr, Amanda Jaine Evans from Air Training Corps, Ann Harrison-Power from the Alzheimer's Society, Teresa Jones from Mental Health Matters Wales, Vince Kelly from Llynfi Valley Credit Union, Sue Maclaren from the Alzheimer's Society, Angharad Stokes from AYPD, and Pamela Williams from the Community Companions Project.

There were certificates for: Llynfi Valley Credit Union – School Volunteer Team; MV50 Sports Youth Volunteering Project – Llangynwyd Rangers Boys' & Girls' Clubs of Wales Football Club.

'Highly Commended' certificate holders Kenneth Bufton and Alex Williams from Tenovus Cancer Care were unable to make the awards ceremony.

Chris Elmore MP also presented Highly Commended certificates for the Wales Council for Voluntary Action's Wales Volunteer of the Year Awards. He commented: "It was an absolute pleasure to present the 'Highly Commended' certificates to Jolie Davies from Boys and Girls Club of Wales, Hannah Hiddlestone, the Bridge Mentoring Plus Scheme, and Margaret Lewis from Parc Supporting Families."

ABOVE: Community Furniture Aid received the Volunteer Project of the Year Award, presented by Lesley Poulton.

Megan Curling (AYPD) received the Volunteer of the Year under 25 Award from Ann Lloyd.

Jill Grange (Bridgend National Autistic Society) was presented with the Outstanding Volunteer Contribution Award by Mark Standley.

Carl Tidball (Ultimate Dance Crew Caerau) was presented with the Sports Volunteer of the Year Award by Coun Rob Morgan.

Lara French (Y Bont) received the Volunteer of the Year Award over 25, from Coun Charles Smith.

ABOVE: All winners and 'Highly' Commended certificate holders with Heidi Bennett (BAVO) and compère Lee Jukes.

Sarah Boswell-Jones with the Befriending and Mentoring Volunteer Award, presented by Amy Jones.

Eliot Davies (Ty Hafan), Charity Shop Volunteer of the Year Award, with Coun Huw David.

John Noblereceived the Trustee of the Year Award from Coun Reg Jenkins.

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Remembrance Day service and parade at Cefn Cribwr

Report and photographs by Keith E Morgan.

THE Royal British Legion Remembrance Day service and parade at Cefn Cribwr was co-ordinated on behalf of the Legion's Kenfig Hill & District branch, and Pyle Community Council, by retired Merchant Navy chief engineer Malcolm Reynolds.

The service commenced at Bethel Chapel, Cefn Cribwr and the parade was assembled and smartly marched to the Cenotaph at Cefn Cribwr escorted by Ceri, a PCSO of the South Wales Constabulary.

A very large crowd had assembled at the Cenotaph for the service and Act of Remembrance, which was conducted by Malcolm Reynolds. As in previous years, emphasis was placed on the involvement of youngsters; the children of Cefn Cribwr Primary School, descendants of the 14 lads from Cefn Cribwr who lost their lives in both World Wars, each placed a wreath.

All Rembrance events hope for good weather, but surely none more so than Cefn Cribwr, which the Cenotaph is perched on the hill with nothing to hold back the wind and rain,

Fortunately, the villagers' efforts were blessed with sunshine!

'THANKFUL VILLAGE' HOLDS REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

THE annual Colwinston Thankful Village Remembrance Sunday Service was held in magnificent autumn sunshine, led by the Reverend Alan Kettle at the Colwinston Thankful Village War Memorial.

The congregation sang *O God Our Help In Ages Past*. *Last Post* was sounded by Tom Jose and after the Silence, the Service was completed with prayers and readings.

The term, 'thankful village' refers to the fact that everyone from the village who served in the Great War returned safe and sound.

PGW

Maesteg remembers...

Just some of those in Maesteg taking part in Remembrance Sunday.

Turning frowns upside down at Pencoed school!

IT is 'Little Acts of Kindness Week' at Pencoed Comprehensive School and as part of the school's anti-bullying week activities, the student council challenged staff and pupils to turn that frown upside down and do something kind for others!

Launching the campaign with a poster-designing competition, staff and pupils will be on the look out for little acts of kindness and capturing those golden moments by posting the details of the act into the Kindness boxes placed at various points around the school.

At the end of anti-bullying week, a lucky winner will be drawn from the nominations to receive a prize. School council member, Erin Scurrah, who wrote the presentation to be delivered by the student council during assemblies in anti-bullying week, said: "one kind word can change someone's entire day."

So whether it's lending a hand in class to someone who is struggling, or holding open a door for others, the student council believe, "kindness begins with me".

MRS S LLEWELLYN

Dance group in line for award

PUPILS at Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen part of a dance crew called 'Step by Step' entered the Welsh Factor this year and reached the semi finals, after recently competing in Llanelli.

They hope to win the £20,000 prize. The girls are: Meghan Parker, Gracie Sebburn, Tayah Owen, Charlie Duckworth, Libby Lloyd, Louise Osbourne, Rachael Quigley, Cobi Kendall, Molly Blake, Leiana Darks, Ellie Mayjor, Mya Jones, Amy Haxton, and Amy Jenkins.

RNLI volunteer Aileen collects MBE at Palace

Aileen proudly shows off her MBE.

Steve, Aileen, Frances and Dan at the Palace.

QUEEN'S Birthday Honours recipient Aileen Jones, a volunteer at Porthcawl RNLI Lifeboat station, was presented with her MBE this week by Prince William at Buckingham Palace.

Aileen, who has been a volunteer at Porthcawl since 1995, was accompanied to the Palace by husband Steve, daughter Frances, and son Dan, who have also been volunteers for the RNLI at Porthcawl.

Both Aileen and Steve are retired helms and now hold the office of Deputy Launch Authority.

Daughter Frances was a crew member until university took her away from the town. Dan is currently a crew member.

"It was a complete surprise and honour when I was awarded the MBE for service to the RNLI," said Aileen.

"To have my family with me at Buckingham Palace made it really special day for me.

"Being a RNLI volunteer has been a huge part of our family life, both children from their younger years, were familiar with lifeboat crew and the commitment of volunteers.

"Steve and I were so proud that both Frances and Dan joined the crew as soon as they were old enough."

Lifeboat Operations Manager at Porthcawl, Philip Missen, said: "We are all proud of Aileen, who has been a stalwart at our lifeboat station. She was one of our first female crew members and then qualified as one of the first RNLI female helms.

"During a rescue of two casualties on a commercial fishing boat in difficulty out in the Bristol Channel, Aileen demonstrated her seamanship and courage as helmsman.

"She was recognised for these skills and became the RNLI's first female crew member in the history of the charity to receive a Bronze Medal for gallantry.

"Her award of the MBE is recognition of the commitment Aileen has shown to the RNLI, and to our lifeboat station here in Porthcawl," he added.

CADETS SHOW WHAT THE POPPY MEANS TO THEM

ABOVE: Cadet Corporal Llewellyn and fellow prizewinning cadets. Photo by Flt Sgt Peckham (ATC).

SAINSBURY'S supermarket in Bridgend, in conjunction with the Royal British Legion, held a competition open to RAF Air Cadets in Bridgend county borough called '*What does the Poppy mean to me?*'

Cadet Corporal Huw Llewellyn from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron, won first prize, with two cadets from 2318 (Aberkenfig) Squadron placed second and third.

There were many superb entries on display in the windows behind the checkouts. (You may have seen them over the last two weeks).

The three winners each received a Sainsbury's gift voucher.

Flight Sergeant (ATC) Peckham would like to congratulate everybody who entered as the quality was superb. He would also like to thank Flight Lieutenant Amanda Evans, for inviting the squadron to take part and also for collecting our entries.

LINDSAY THOMAS
CWC Secretary

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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM: If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
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Ogmore Valley male voice choir

THIS choir is heavily involved with the local community, it owns a rehearsal and concert hall which was built in 1874, the Canolfan Bethlehem.

It is busy rehearsing for concerts it will be performing in December to raise funds for several charities, while on Sundays it is preparing songs to add to a CD, on sale for Christmas.

The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings and always welcomes new members and guests. For more information, telephone secretary John Jones on 01656 841429

Laleston WI

THE November meeting was taken by president Dawn Storie, who welcomed everyone including three visitors.

All the members were looking forward to the Christmas lunch at The Atlantic Hotel, Porthcawl on December 6.

Details of future events, such as a Glamorgan Federation WI lunch in aid of the Denman Appeal at the Aberavon Beach Hotel and a Federation fashion show at The Nolton House Hotel, were given.

A ballot was held and two bursaries, for courses at Denman College, were awarded. The lucky winners are Jane Lewis and Margaret Williams. Congratulations ladies!

Thanks to the speaker, Donald Llewellyn, for stepping in at the last minute and entertaining the members with slides and stories of his 'Life behind the Camera'. Gwyneth Jenkins gave the vote of thanks.

The raffle was won by Rosemary Dwyer and the competition by Barbara Rees.

The Book Club, at Bridgend Library, will take place on December 15.

The next meeting will be held on December 1 at 7.15pm in Blandy Hall (Laleston Gardening Club). It is Christmas party time and the competition will be a 'Christmas adornment'. New members are always welcome, why not come and join us. For further information call Diane on 01656 656600.

Bois Goetre-Hen Male Choir

THE choir is performing in a charity concert to help raise funds for Prostate Cancer UK. It is being held at St John the Divine parish church, Aberkenfig on Friday, November 25 at 7pm. There is also a guest choir, Meibion Goronwy from Benllech on the Isle of Anglesey.

Tickets are £5 from secretary Richard Howells e-mail boisgoetrehen'gmail.com or telephone 01656 737923.

Mynydd Cynffig WI

TUESDAY, November 8 found the members in the Talbot Centre, Kenfig Hill at 2.30pm for the November meeting, with a good turnout of members. Marjorie Goode and Enid Rymer, respectively president and secretary, explained items of WI business to the members.

Then details for the forthcoming Christmas party were finalised. Enid will organise 'Pass the Parcel', which always has the members in stitches; Maureen has arranged for Bill Bennett to entertain us during the party which is a first time for the WI and should be very interesting. The members are all looking forward to a great afternoon.

The walking club went on November 7 to Margam Park for an interesting walk, truly enjoyed by the walkers.

The Christmas tree festival is arranged and it is hoped the members will attend at Margam Park, as it will be a good day with lots to see and enjoy.

The talk this month was by John Hanson and his associate, on the topic 'Tools for Africa'. The subject was very interesting. There is a local branch in Porthcawl staffed by volunteers, they will take all and everything you don't want in your garden shed; refurbish and repair old tools, send them to their headquarters in Southampton, to be shipped to Africa. The tools are for self-reliance not charity. Next month is the Christmas party. Can't wait to celebrate.

Wesley Methodist Church, Tondu

ON Saturday, December 3, there is a Christmas tree festival and bazaar from 10am to 3pm.

On December 4, there will be an all age Nativity and parade service at 10.30am.

On December 7, there will be a carol service with the choir from Tondu primary school leading the singing, the service is at 6pm.

Tondu primary school

FRIDAY, November 18 is Children In Need Day, and the school is inviting the children to wear their pyjamas. They are asked to bring £1 for the non-uniform day, also if possible could they bring it in loose change to cover Pudsey in coins.

The school is asking for help to raise as much money as possible for the charity. Thanking parents and carers for their support.

The Parents' and Teachers' Association is organising a disco for pupils of the school on Thursday, November 24 from 5.30pm – 7pm, at Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen. It is asking everyone to use the entrance down the steps/ramp from the car park as the front entrance will not be open. There will be an entrance fee of £1. Parents of children in nursery and reception must accompany their children.

The school will have tickets for the different Christmas concerts at the school available from November 23.

Y Bont

Y BONT children's charity will hold a Christmas festival at Bryngarw Country Park from 4pm to 8pm on December 2 and from 10am to 4pm on December 3. Everyone will be treated to a festive atmosphere with lots of stalls and music provided by choirs.

Cor Merched Cwm Llynfi, (Llynfi Valley Ladies' Choir)

THE choir is performing in a concert in the Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Patrick, Monica Street, Maesteg, on Friday 25th November 2017 at 7pm. Tickets £6 are available from the church, choir members or by telephone on 01656 742703.

It will be a ladies' night as the guest soloist will be Sally-Anne Kingsbury! Please support this concert as all proceeds will go to the church restoration fund.

If you are interested in joining the choir, this concert would be the perfect opportunity to hear the ladies sing.

The choir rehearses in the Catholic Church every Wednesday from 7pm to 9pm.

Tynyrheol Primary School

J BLACKMAN, the headteacher, gives thanks for the continued support provided to the school from parents, friends and governors. The school disco on October 21 raised £69.60 and the bonfire night organised by the PTFA raised £280.50.

She also wants to thank everyone for their generous donations for the Royal British Legion. Pupils have been wearing their poppies and their poppy bands with pride. She will let everyone know how much the school raised, when it has all been calculated.

The next cross country event (for years 3-6) is at Pencoed Comprehensive school on Saturday November 26. She advises parents that parking may be problematic due to another event being held there on the same date.

Please arrive by 9.45am, races start at 10am and should finish by 10.45am.

The PTFA still has seats available on the coach Christmas shopping trip to Bristol city centre, on Saturday, November 19. The bus will be leaving Blaengarw at 8am and picking up (and dropping off) at various stops. The bus will leave Bristol at 5pm. Tickets are £15 and that includes entry into the raffle.

For tickets, contact Mrs Street, (01656 815820) a member of the PTFA or Miss Crowle or Ms Blackman, at the school.

Age Connects Morgannwg

THIS will host a fundraising evening of musical entertainment by Maesteg male choir Côr Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch on Friday, November 25 from 6.30pm to 10pm at Pencoed Miners' Welfare Hall (CF35 5PE).

Tickets, £5, can be purchased from Age Connects Morgannwg via information@acmorgannwg.org.uk or call 01443 490650. Admission by ticket only.

CAOS' MUSICAL TRIP AROUND UK

Members of CAOS Musical Society on stage in Fairwater.

ON November 8, CAOS Musical Society were the guests of Cardiff Light Music Club at The Fairwater Conservative Club.

The theme was 'Songs From Around Britain' and the programme included many old favourites such as, 'Cwm Rhondda', 'The Londonderry Air', 'The Lewis Bridal Song,' and a medley of songs all associated with London.

The first half of the concert was a solo performance by Tony Hill, who played guitar and sang a selection of well-known, sing-along songs. His performance was very well received and warmed the audience up nicely for the choir in the second half.

The musical director and conductor for the evening, Diane Normansell, who shared the piano playing duties with Christopher Fossey. Mrs Normansell recently damaged her hand in an unfortunate accident, but she managed to play the accompaniment to a medley of songs with her usual skill and dexterity.

As always, Chris Banks played the role of master of ceremonies for the evening, filling the gaps between the songs with his usual mix of informative but witty remarks and anecdotes.

CAOS Musical Society is a mixed ability choir with some talented and experienced singers, as well as a few absolute beginners included in their numbers. The choir rehearses every Wednesday in the St Athan Community Centre at 7.30pm.

They are always on the lookout for new singers and if you would like to come along and join them, one evening, you are assured of a very warm welcome.

Three from the area in running for Wales Sport Awards 2016

FIFTEEN people involved in grassroots sport in Wales – including three from Bridgend or the Vale – have been selected to contest the Wales Sport Awards 2016.

They were shortlisted after being nominated for their contributions to community sport, following a nationwide search.

The winners will be revealed at the Wales Sport Awards ceremony at Hoddinott Hall in Cardiff Bay on December 5, organised jointly by BBC Wales and Sport Wales.

The five community awards celebrate the essential and often unseen work of volunteers and coaches that keeps sport thriving in every corner of Wales.

Those in contention from the area are: Megan Curling, involved in gymnastics in Bridgend for Young Volunteer of the Year; Jamie Evans, again from Bridgend and taking part in gymnastics, up for the Young Coach award; and, in the Coach to Disabled People category, Emily Griffiths for swimming in the Vale.

Dr Paul Thomas, chair of Sport Wales commented: "The importance of these volunteers and coaches can't be overestimated. They are the heartbeat of sport in Wales and they deserve our thanks and recognition for the work do in getting people hooked on sport.

"It is such a hard task picking out finalists and winners for the awards but their stories will be an inspiration and motivation for others."

BRIDGE RESULTS

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan Children in Need simultaneous pairs competition held on November 14:

1st Helen Houston & Mike Pownell 67.17%, 2nd Liam Sheridan & Glenda Roberts 67.13%, 3rd Tony Ratcliffe & Trish Tracey 63.19%.

Many thanks to all who contributed - we raised £215 for Children in Need! **LE**

Artist Linda wins shield – AGAIN!

THE chairman of BARUC Art Group, John Thomas, hands over the Baruc Art Group Shield to a delighted Linda Johns for the second year running.

Her painting, 'Glimpses of St Pauls,' was voted the best work in the BARUC annual art exhibition held in October, with Jan Parsons' work 'Gone Fishing,' voted a close second.

The chairman praised the incredibly high standard of works on display at the exhibition, and his gratitude for the public's enthusiastic support.

BARUC Art Group meets on Fridays from 9am-12 noon at All Saints Church Hall, Barry.

Wolves in thriller

DINAS POWYS Wolves were caught sleeping in the latter stages of this thrilling encounter against Sully.

After falling 1-0 behind when the visiting Keeper Dylan Morris let a shot from a freekick slip through his hands the reply from the Villagers was instant.

After a flowing move involving a number of players saw Robson Mallam finished off with a fine goal.

Kyle Booker then went on a customary run beating a number of players with ease to put the Wolves in the lead.

Unselfish running and movement from Callum Hewitson was creating the space which allowed the Wolves to play their attacking style of football.

Rian Thomas rifled home the third after Hewitson found him in space.

Robson Mallam, in a rich scoring vein, added his second to give the visitors a fully-deserved 4-1 lead.

The second half was a very stop start affair with the visitors conceding numerous stupid and petulant free kicks.

Sully capitalised on this and made much more of a game of it in the second half.

Thomas and Booker put the game to bed however, as the home side looked like making a full comeback.

Dinas would like to wish the Sully defender a speedy recovery as he came off worse for wear in a fair challenge from a Wolves forward.

Final score Sully 5, Dinas Wolves 6. **LS**

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/01261/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Extension of existing Grade II listed two-storey house located within the Llantwit Major Conservation Area. The alterations comprise new roof lights and French doors to existing north rear wing and replacement of existing lean-to east extension with a larger gable roofed extension.
Location:/Lleoliad: Old Place, Castle Street, Llantwit Major
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Llantwit Major

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/01267/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed development of the site for 2 new build, detached houses
Location:/Lleoliad: Plot at Station Terrace, East Aberthaw
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: East Aberthaw

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/00607/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: The proposals are to build a small extension to house a utility room and accessible WC. Access to the chapel will be improved with a new wheelchair accessible ramp and a raised path formed outside the chapel on MOD land
Location:/Lleoliad: Bethesdar Fro URC, Boverton Road, North Gate, Boverton, (RAF St. Athan)
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/01258/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Replace floor in northern portion of main barn
Location:/Lleoliad: Cobbles Kitchen and Deli, Ty Maen Barns, Ogmore by Sea
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/01276/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: The conversion of a redundant and derelict barn into a single detached residential dwelling, and the erection of the original cow shed structure to the South West perimeter of the site
Location:/Lleoliad: West Aberthaw Farm, West Aberthaw
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/01298/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Conversion and refurbishment of existing detached outbuilding/store to provide garden office/occasional guest bedroom facilities ancillary to existing farmhouse
Location:/Lleoliad: Caer Wigau Uchaf Farm, Pendoylan Road, Pendoylan
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/01323/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Extension of existing Grade II listed two-storey house located within the Llantwit Major Conservation Area. The alterations comprise new roof lights and French doors to existing north rear wing and replacement of existing lean-to east extension with a larger gable roofed extension.
Location:/Lleoliad: Old Place, Castle Street, Llantwit Major
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/01261/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Extension of existing Grade II listed two-storey house located within the Llantwit Major Conservation Area. The alterations comprise new roof lights and French doors to existing north rear wing and replacement of existing lean-to east extension with a larger gable roofed extension.
Location:/Lleoliad: Old Place, Castle Street, Llantwit Major
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Affecting Old Place, Castle Street, Llantwit Major, Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/01278/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Rear extension
Location:/Lleoliad: Pound Cottage, 2, Penlan Road, Llandough, Penarth
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Affecting Pound Cottage, 2, Penlan Road, Llandough, Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/01290/RES
Proposal:/Cynnig: Development of the site known as Arno Quay for residential development and associated infrastructure works, parking, and landscape
Location:/Lleoliad: Arno Quay, Barry Waterfront, Barry

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 17 November, 2016

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager,
Regeneration and Planning,
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Penarth Hockey Club news round-up

PENARTH Hockey Club continues to push for promotion on three fronts in the GoCrea8 League despite only one of its teams winning on a weekend where the first and third XIs faced top of the table clashes.

After three successive weekends on South Wales 'soil', the first XI were back on their travels for the seventh game of the Conference North campaign, heading to the University of the West of England in Bristol for a showdown with the students.

Having won their previous three matches, the Bears were in confident mood, but travelled without talisman Ben Croxall for the first time as they took on a UWE side that had played one tier higher - in the Championship division - just last year.

That pedigree showed as the home side proved capable of moving the ball well early on but, despite several forays into the Penarth 'D', they failed to break the deadlock, and it was Penarth who actually came the closest to doing so.

The visitors really established control in the final 15 minutes of the half, transferring the ball across the back before finding their way into the final third of the pitch with ease. However, although they earned a number of penalty corners, Penarth also failed to grab a goal and went into the break at 0-0.

The second half started just as the first had ended, with Penarth in control and winning numerous penalty corners. The breakthrough eventually came after 50 minutes, with Laith El-Khatib flicking the ball under the UWE 'keeper to put the visitors a goal up, but, despite maintaining possession thereafter, they couldn't add a second, allowing the students to remain in the game.

After earning a string of penalty corners of their own, the University side eventually evened the scoreline with a well-controlled flick of into the bottom corner, and went into the final part of the game with the greater momentum.

Under pressure, Penarth also found themselves on the wrong end of a number of questionable umpiring decisions in the final ten minutes, and were dealt a heavy blow when defender Tom Haran was sidelined for the remainder of the game after a bad challenge.

To make matters worse, UWE took the lead from the resulting penalty corner and Penarth, despite generating pressure with only 10 men, simply couldn't find a way back in the final stages, falling for the first time this season, 2-1, but remaining second in the division heading into a tough run of games against top six opposition.

PENARTH A 6, CARDIFF MEDICS A 0

The second XI's season has taken an upturn in recent weeks and Sam Chick's side looked to make it three wins on the bounce as they hosted their Cardiff Medics counterparts at Stanwell School on Saturday.

The home team started well and, after a handful of thwarted efforts, finally took the lead midway through the first half, as a well-placed aerial ball caught the Medics' defence napping, allowing Phil Lane to drive into the 'D' and slot home past the hapless 'keeper.

The lead was doubled soon after, with Lane again making the difference as he powered home to add to Penarth's advantage, but the tempo dropped off towards the end of the half, allowing the Medics to come back into the game, although the few chances they created were met with some resolute defending that prevented them from troubling goalkeeper Simon Comfort.

Despite being ahead at half-time, Penarth knew 2-0 was still a vulnerable scoreline, with the next goal likely to be crucial in determining the outcome. With their effort refired by the interval, and concentrated by an injury to influential midfielder Mark Thomas, it was the home side who grabbed the score, man-of-the-match Sam Salisbury doing superbly to smash a ball to the back post for Steve Davies to add the finishing touch.

Like Lane before him, Davies quickly doubled his tally, this time slapping home a scuffed Chick shot after good work from Dave Stevens, driving forward from right back.

With the Medics fading between sporadic attacks, Penarth made it five after a perfectly-weighted through ball from Lane saw Chick's shot well saved by the keeper, only to fall for Christian Holzbaur to calmly claim his first goal for the Bears.

The scoring was rounded off by Chris McCarthy, following good build-up play by Jamie Davison, and the 6-0 scoreline helps Penarth climb to third in the De Cymru 1 table with four games remaining before the Christmas break.

PENARTH B 1, SWANSEA UNIVERSITY C 5

Top of the table Swansea University visited Stanwell to take on a Penarth third XI buoyed by the previous week's crushing victory over Swansea City.

Knowing that the winners would be De Cymru 3 leaders at the end of the day added a little extra frisson to the occasion, but it was student side that started quicker and, within a couple of minutes, were 1-0 up after a well-worked goal.

Two further goals - one a contentious penalty flick - gave the visitors a comfortable lead by midway through the half, but Penarth gradually managed to find their feet and, despite losing James Davies to a dead leg, the Bears started to build some attacks of their own through Richard Cousins and Mark Robinson in midfield.

After going close through a couple of penalty corners struck by Nathan Townsend - one of which seemed to be stopped by a Swansea leg on the goal-line - a drive into the 'D' by skipper Dave Watkins resulted in his cross being diverted into the net by a Swansea stick, making it 3-1 at the break.

The second half proved to be much better for Penarth, as the defence of Simon Wilkinson and Matt Birch stopped the Swansea attacks with relative ease and provided the foundation for numerous quick breaks that should have resulted in a goal or two for the home side.

That could have swung the game in Penarth's favour, but they were made to pay for their wastefulness as they appeared to tire in the final five minutes, defensive errors twice gifting goals to a University side who would be the first to admit that the eventual 5–1 scoreline did not reflect the game as a whole.

Three of the four Penarth sides will be in action this weekend, with the thirds taking their turn to have a Saturday off.

The first XI will hope to bounce back as they open a run of hugely important fixtures by taking on Bristol University at Stanwell School (1.45pm start). The seconds head to Swansea hoping to make it four in a row and keep the pressure on the top two in division, while the fourth XI provide the warm-up for the senior side by hosting Gwent at Stanwell (12 noon start).

Penarth Hockey Club will be holding a quiz night - featuring Paul Thomas' famous curry - on Friday, November 25, starting 7.30pm at Penarth Athletic Club.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on Wednesdays at Stanwell School, with the juniors on the pitch between 6.15pm and 7.15pm and the seniors between 7pm and 8.15pm.

Anyone interested in joining the club at senior or youth level can contact club secretary Dave Stevens (d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.

CL

NO RUGBY... but there's no rest for Sully View RFC!

THE autumn internationals may be good for international rugby, but this period places grassroots rugby under pressure.

Sully View RFC has not had a fixture for three weeks, and it will be another three weeks before its next game. This does not encourage players to train twice a week, and harms the social camaraderie aspects of the club.

Efforts to keep everyone involved, include the recently successful 'Halloween night' and further events planned at the club on Saturday, December 17 and on New Year's Eve.

The next event is the reunion night on Friday, November 25, starting at 7.30pm in the Market Street Club.

All players/members are most welcome, with a special invitation going out to all the current players who have now settled into the newly reformed club.

As the last two reunions have been successful in raising money for charity, it has been decided that all reunions will include charity fundraising, and so those attending will be asked to contribute £5 to cover food, raffle and a donation to charity.

These get-togethers are proving most successful, as old friendships are revived, stories, and memories, of the past exchanged, and topped off with a good old fashioned rugby sing-a-long.

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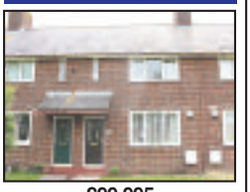
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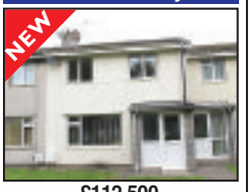
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Faces tell their own story on Remembrance Sunday around Bridgend's war memorial

Photos by MANDY THOMAS
(Available for purchase, telephone 07541 982794)

THERE may be parades, pipes and drums, and pageantry on Remembrance Sunday – but it is the faces that tell the most powerful story.

Bridgend-based photographer Mandy Thomas has a studio just around the corner from the Cenotaph in Dunraven Place, and while covering the event, she was drawn to faces that opened a brief window to the thoughts and memories of the veterans.

To a man, one imagines, they were remembering colleagues no longer with us.

In fact, she was so taken that she invited Paul Mockett, MBE, to her studio after the ceremony, to take his portrait (right) – a simple tribute to a proud military man.

Armistice Day in Porthcawl

Armistice Day in Porthcawl. Report and photograph by Keith E Morgan.

THE Royal British Legion Porthcawl branch Armistice Day Service at the bandstand, John Street commanded a big crowd as members of the Porthcawl Army Cadets formed the Guard of Honour.

The service itself was conducted by Allan Lloyd, chairman of the Porthcawl branch and commenced with readings of poems by David Richards MBE, Phillip Rosser Stanford, Roger Thomas, Allan Lloyd, and Lt Colonel Steve Rock, who concluded with 'In Flanders Fields'.

Following the Last Post, Mr Rock, president of the Porthcawl branch recited the Exhortation before the two minute silence.

Since 1904, there has only been one year, that of 1968, without a British soldier, sailor or airman having died as a result of conflict.

Following the Reveille, Steve Rock recited the 'Kohima Epitaph' and Allan Lloyd brought the service to a close, inviting all present to join him in singing the national anthem.

Bridgend charity receives Extra help

Katie Davies (centre) among volunteers and users at the Bridgend Mentoring Plus Scheme with goods donated by Bridgend Tesco Extra staff (centre rear from left) Ceryl Jenkins, Darren Morgan and Nikki Edward.

A CHARITY that offers support to vulnerable young adults in the Bridgend area is to receive help from Tesco.

Tesco Bridgend Extra has provided The Bridge Mentoring Plus Scheme with an initial donation of a washer/dryer, fridge, washing powder, towels and toiletries for The Zone – the charity's drop in community centre situated at Dunraven Place.

The appliances will allow service users to wash and dry their clothes and the fridge will enable to charity to store food received via Tesco's frozen fair share scheme.

TIME TO REMEMBER...

Porthcawl's Remembrance Sunday service, organised by the Royal British Legion, remembered all – including the 'forgotten conflicts' of Korea, Suez, Aden, Northern Ireland, the Falklands, the Gulf War, and those in the Balkans, where members of HM Armed Forces fought and fell, or returned with scars physical or mental, alongside those from more recent wars. None was forgotten.

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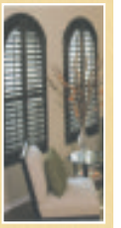

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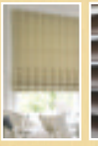

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Family Notices

POWELL
Derek

Suddenly on November 9 at the University Hospital of Wales, Derek, a well known and respected character within Barry and Cardiff. Devoted husband to Alma, much loved dad of Deborah and Nigel. Cherished DER of Victoria, Joe, Henry, Imogen and his great grandson Ray.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Derek is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery Chapel, Barry on Thursday, November 24 at 11am, followed by interment. Family floral tributes only please. Donations if desired may be made at the service or via Derek's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk, where you are also welcome to leave your memories and personal messages of sympathy.

All donations received will support the work of Dementia UK. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

PRICE
Bronwen Margaret

Peacefully on November 7th at Llandough Hospital after a short illness, formerly of Tynewydd Road Barry.

Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors until her service at the Cardiff & Vale Crematorium, Barry on November 28th at 2pm.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers to the British Heart Foundation if desired.

COLLINS
James Francis David (Jim)

Peacefully on November 7, James, loving husband of Marcela, much loved by all that knew him.

Funeral service at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on Tuesday, November 22 at 2pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers can be made payable to Llantwit Major Church and forwarded to The Parish Office, St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major, CF61 1SB.

EDWARDS
Gwynne

Peacefully on November 10, at his home in Llantwit Major, Gwynne, beloved husband of Gina, dearly loved father of Geoffrey and father-in-law of Janet. Loving grandfather of James and Sarah.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday, November 24, service and cremation 1.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care, c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

EVANS
David Colin

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital, Dave, aged 77 years, beloved partner of Liz. Much loved dad of Lee, Jan and Tracey, and loved father-in-law of Gail, Adam and Dave. Cherished grandad of Emma, Kate, Molly, Rhian, Tom and Josh and loved brother of Janet and John.

Dave will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son until the funeral service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Thursday, November 24 at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for Diabetes UK c/o the funeral director. Black attire optional.

HEATHFIELD
Brian Ernest

With great sadness, and after a short illness, at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff on November 9. Brian, aged 76, well known for his support and commitment to Barry Athletic Football Club.

Dearly beloved husband to Brenda, much loved dad of Adele and Adrian, a loved and respected father-in-law to Deanna and Rob. Loved and adored bampi of Olivia, Charlotte, Aron and Joseph. Also, special brother of Sylvia, Barbara, Jimmy, Stephen and the late June.

Brian is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis at The Vale Funeral Service, Barry until a celebration of his life at All Saints Church, Park Road, Barry, CF62 6QW on Wednesday, November 23 at 1.30pm, followed by burial at Barry Cemetery, CF62 9TJ.

No floral tributes requested by the family, donations in lieu can be made at the service or via Brian's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk where you are also welcome to leave your memories and personal messages.

All donations in aid of the 'Brian Heathfield Memorial Fund' to support much needed repairs and improvements to Barry Athletic Football Club to which he dedicated much time.

MORGAN
Margaret Irene

Sadly in the Princess of Wales Hospital, Irene of Llantwit Major, wife of the late Arthur and dearly loved mother of Anthony.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Monday 21st November 2016 at 2.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Donations may be made to Tenovus c/o the funeral home.

WEBSTER
Colin Victor

Peacefully on November 10 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Colin of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved husband of Etta.

He will be sadly missed by family and friends and all who remembered him in Websters D.I.Y.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service in St. Illtud's Church on Tuesday, November 22 at 9.45am, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 11am. Family flowers only but donations may be made to Parkinsons Disease Society c/o the Funeral Home.

WILTON
Doris Muriel

(Aged 95 years)

Peacefully on November 11 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Doris, much loved wife of the late Robert. Loving mother of Kay, Richard and David, adored grandmother and great grandmother.

She will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at St Hilary Church on Wednesday, November 23 at 1pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. No flowers by request, donations, if desired, to Cancer Resarch Wales, Velindre Hospital, Whitchurch, Cardiff, CF14 2TL.

WILSON
David Lynch

On November 8 at UHW Cardiff, after a long illness, David (Daio) of Wenvoe, much loved brother and uncle.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wednesday, November 23, service and cremation 12 noon at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Family flowers only may be sent to the funeral home, donations in lieu, if desired, to Velindre Cancer Care c/o Mrs. C. J. James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

HOPKINS
Kenneth 'Mel'

Peacefully at University Hospital Wales on October 20, Mel, aged 78 years. Sadly missed by his friend Rose, all those at Orchard House Residential Home and his friends on Barry Island.

Resting at Michael G Ryan Son & Daughters until the funeral on Wednesday, November 23 at Barry Cemetery at 10.30am.

Flowers to Michael G Ryan Son & Daughters by midday on Tuesday, 22 November.

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Natalie Anne
1980 - 2014

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You brought joy and beauty,
From the moment of your birth,
Now in heaven you are an angel,
Just as you were on earth.

In memory of a loving daughter, sister and mum.
Loved and missed everyday.
From Mum, Dad, Andrew, Ceri, Courtney and family.

Acknowledgements

CAUNT
Edward (Ted)

The family of Ted, husband of the late Jean, thank everyone who attended Ted's funeral.
Special thanks to Orchard House for their excellent care, Pastor Matt and friends at Bethel Baptist Chapel and W. James and Sons Funeral Directors.

OLDING
Trefor

Chris, Gary and Nicola wish to thank everyone who attended Trefor's funeral, expressed messages of sympathy and who gave donations to Cancer Research Cymru.
Thanks also to Father Ben Andrews for officiating and to A.G. Adams & Son, Funeral Directors.

Birthdays

Bethan James

Happy 4th Birthday!
18th November

to our special little girl
Love you lots like jelly tots
Mummy, Daddy, Nannyness, Grampy & Frankie dog
xxxxx

Happy 70th Birthday
GRAMPY
on 17th November

'Probably
THE BEST
fisherman in the family!'
lots of love all the family xxx

Happy 1st Birthday
Elexis Christine Mary Gray
on 17th November

Love Mummy, Daddy, Mckenzie & Sienna and family xxxx

Anniversary

Dorothy & Fred Curtis
Congratulations Mum & Dad
on your
Golden Wedding Anniversary!
19th November
Lots of love & best wishes
Jean, Brian, Kelly, Samuel & Thomas xxx

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Situations Vacant

Eryl Surgery, Llantwit Major
currently has a vacancy for a
Medical Receptionist
Please see our website for details about the vacancy and how to apply.
Erylgrouppractice.co.uk

Personal Assistant Wanted
There are 5 hours of work available.
A disabled lady living in Llantwit Major is looking to employ a personal assistant to assist and support with domestic duties around my home and in the community. She also requires support with shopping, meetings and social events so car owner/driver essential.
Rate of pay is £8.25 per hour.
Telephone: 01443 827930 or
e-mail recruitment@dewiscil.org.uk.
Quote Ref: VOG009. Successful applicants are required to provide an enhanced disclosure, expense to be met by employer.
Charity No 1098229

Bridgend Town Council

Arts Project Officer (Maternity Cover)
We are looking for someone to cover maternity leave to start 3rd January 2017; the post is a one year contract.
The successful applicant will be responsible for planning and administrating a programme of in-house workshops and classes at Carnegie House Arts Centre and will also support the Town Clerk and other members of staff by providing key administrative services to the organisation.
The post is for **25 hours per week from 9am - 2pm**, Monday to Friday, at **£11.55 per hour** and will be based in the Council Office at Carnegie House
Please send a letter of application, along with a C.V. and two references, to the address below.
The closing date for all applications is 2pm on Wednesday, 30th November 2016.
A full job description is available from the address below.
The Town Clerk, Bridgend Town Council, Carnegie House, Wyndham Street, Bridgend, CF31 1EF
Tel: 01656 815757
Website: www.bridgendtowncouncil.gov.uk
E-mail: bridgend.tc@bridgend.gov.uk

Situations Vacant

CHURCHFIELDS HOME CARE
Carers Required
Due to the high demand for our home care services. Experience preferred.
Call 01446 405175 for an immediate interview

A highly respected charity is seeking
Care Workers
in Barry and Penarth (all hours). A car, driving licence & DBS checks are required for the job. Full training provided. Community rates of pay; **£7.70, £8 & £9**. Mileage allowance 25p per mile.
Tel: 02920 700057 option 6
Email: caremanager@crossroads-vale.org.uk
Reg.Charity No. 1061381

Are you fit to deliver?
We need fit reliable people to help distribute the **Glamorgan GEM** newspaper to local homes, once a week.
- TEENAGERS (aged 13 years and over)
- ACTIVE SENIOR CITIZENS
- HOUSEWIVES STUDENTS SHIFT WORKERS

Please ring:
01202 811666
email
info@thedistributionbusiness.co.uk
If we do not have an immediate vacancy in your area, your details will be placed on our waiting list until a suitable opportunity occurs.

Thank You

THANK YOU
I would like to thank the people who helped me, the paramedics, the ambulance crew and A&E of the University Hospital of Wales for looking after me after I crashed my car in Llantwit Street, Barry on November 2.
JOHN DAVIES

TO ADVERTISE YOUR
SITUATIONS VACANT, FAMILY NOTICES, BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, ETC
Call Sue on 01446 774484.
email: **gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk**

Public Notice

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 12 ST BRIDES-SUPER-ELY)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2015

On the 11 October 2016 the Welsh Ministers confirmed the above Order made under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the public footpath as set out in the Schedule and shown in the Order map.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT during normal office hours. Copies of the Order and map may be bought there at a price of £4.50.

This Order came into force on 11 October 2016, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act has not been complied with in relation to the order, he or she may, under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from 17 November 2016 make an application to the High Court.

Dated 17th November 2016

HYSBYSIAD CADARNHAU GORCHYMYN LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS
DEDDF PRIFFYRDD 1980
GORCHYMYN CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
(LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS RHIF 12 LLANSANFFRAID-AR-ELÁI)
GWYRIAD LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2015

Ar 11 Hydref 2016 cadarnhaodd Gweinidogion Cymru y Gorchymyn uchod a wnaethpwyd dan adran 119 Deddf Priffyrdd 1980.

Diben y Gorchymyn hwn fel y'i cadarnhawyd yw dargyfeirio'r llwybr cyhoeddus fel y'i nodir yn yr Atodlen ac fel y'i dangosir yn y map o'r Gorchymyn.

Gellir gweld copi o'r Gorchymyn fel y'i cadarnhawyd a map o'r Gorchymyn am ddim yn Swyddfeydd y Dociau, Dociau'r Barri, y Barri, CF63 4RT yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Gellir prynu copïau o'r Gorchymyn a'r map yno am £4.50.

Daeth y Gorchymyn hwn i rym ar 11 Hydref 2016 ond os bydd person yn teimlo ei fod wedi'i dramgwyddo gan y Gorchymyn ac yn amau ei ddilysrwydd, neu unrhyw ddarpariaethau sydd wedi'u cynnwys ynddo, ar y sail nad yw o fewn pwerau Deddf Priffyrdd 1980 fel y'i diwygiwyd, neu ar y sail na chydymffurfiwyd ag unrhyw un o ofynion y Ddeddf, fel y'i diwygiwyd, neu unrhyw reoliad a wnaed dan y Ddeddf mewn cysylltiad â'r Gorchymyn, gall, dan baragraff 2 Atodlen 2 y Ddeddf fel y nodir yn mharagraff 5 Atodlen 6 o'r Ddeddf, o fewn 6 wythnos o 17 Tachwedd 2016, wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys.

Dyddiedig 17 Tachwedd 2016

Public Notice

LICENSING ACT 2003
Section 17 (5)
Notice of Application for a Premises Licence
NOTICE IS GIVE THAT
An application has been made to Bridgend County Borough Council (the Licensing Authority) for a
PREMISES LICENCE
To permit licensable activities which it is proposed will be carried on, on or from the premises shown below.

Details of the application may be inspected between the hours of: Monday to Thursday 0830 to 1700 hours and Friday 0830 to 1630 hours at Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB or by visiting the authority's website: www.bridgend.gov.uk.

Any responsible authority or any other person may make representations in respect of the application, which must be submitted, in writing, to the following address before the date shown below: Licensing Section, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

NAME OF APPLICANT: BANG-ON BREWERY LIMITED. **NAME AND POSTAL ADDRESS OF THE PREMISES:**
UNIT 3, GEORGE ST, BRIDGEND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, BRIDGEND, CF31 3TS.

STATEMENT OF INTENDED LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES: (1) On and off sales of alcohol
DATE BY WHICH REPRESENTATIONS MUST BE MADE:
This notice remains in force from and including the day after the giving of this notice to the licensing authority, namely 9th November 2016, for 28 consecutive days. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application.
The maximum fine on summary conviction is £5,000.
(1) This must include details of activities, type of entertainment and appropriate days and times.

LICENSING ACT 2003 - Section 17 (5)
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Any responsible authority or any other person may make representations in respect of the application, which must be submitted, in writing, to the following address before the date shown below:- Licensing Section, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

NAME OF APPLICANT: **Kinder Restaurants Limited**

NAME AND POSTAL ADDRESS OF THE PREMISES:
Unit 2, Jennings Building, Porthcawl, CF36 3YR.

STATEMENT OF INTENDED LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES: (1):

Provision of Recorded Music every day from 8:00-23:30 including the below exceptions: - Bank Holiday Weekends including Friday, Saturday and Sunday; Friday - Start 08:00 - End 00:30; Saturday - Start 08:00 - End 00:30; Sunday - Start 08:00 - End 00:30. Throughout the Elvis Weekend Festival: Thursday - Start 08:00 - End 00:30; Friday - Start 08:00 - End 00:30; Saturday - Start 08:00 - End 00:30.

Provision of live Music every day from 14:00-22:00 including the below exceptions: - Bank Holiday Weekends including Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Friday - Start 14:00 - End 22:30; Saturday - Start 14:00 - End 22:30; Sunday - Start 14:00 - End 22:30. Throughout the Elvis Weekend Festival: Thursday - Start 12:00 - End 23:30; Friday - Start 12:00 - End 23:30; Saturday - Start 12:00 - End 23:30; Sunday - Start 12:00 - End 23:30.

Provision of Alcohol every day from 11:00-23:00 including the below exceptions: - Bank Holiday Weekends including Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Friday - Start 11:00 - End 00:00; Saturday - Start 11:00 - End 00:00; Sunday - Start 11:00 - End 00:00. Throughout the Elvis Weekend Festival: Thursday - Start 11:00 - End 00:00; Friday - Start 11:00 - End 00:00; Saturday - Start 11:00 - End 00:00; Sunday - Start 11:00 - End 00:00.

Provision of Late Night Refreshment every day from 23:00-23:30.

DATE BY WHICH REPRESENTATIONS MUST BE MADE:
This notice remains in force from and including the day after the giving of this notice to the licensing authority, namely 10/11/2016, for 28 consecutive days. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction is £5,000.
(1) This must include details of activities, type of entertainment and appropriate days and times

HISTORY MADE AS BARRY TOWN UNITED REACH MG CUP FINAL

HISTORY was re-written at Jenner Park last week, as Barry Town United became the first Welsh League team to reach the final of the Welsh Premier League's expanded Nathaniel MG Cup.

Pitted against three-time winners Carmarthen Town in the first of two semi-finals, Barry showed hunger, determination and skill to see off their WPL foes at Jenner Park, with their famous 1-0 triumph confirming the club's first appearance in the national cup final since 2001.

An evenly-matched contest for much of the 90 minutes, the clash with Mark Aizlewood's Carmarthen was settled by a moment of pure brilliance from Barry striker Jordan Cotterill, who fired a sublime, 66th-minute free-kick beyond the Old Gold wall and goalkeeper Lee Idzi, from 25 yards.

After their exit from the JD Welsh Cup against Penybont three days earlier, the semi-final had quickly become a must-win for Gavin Chesterfield's squad, but any lingering disappointment from the prior weekend would only serve to fuel their efforts, as Barry rose to the occasion in emphatic fashion.

Cotterill's wonder strike made sweet reward for the season-high crowd of more than 500, with the loud and partisan home support providing an invaluable 12th man in the cold November rain.

With skipper James Saddler and defender Luke Cooper entering fine performances on the slick 3G surface, goalkeeper Mike Lewis made his commanding presence known on a number of occasions, while the second-half introduction of penalty taker Bobby Briers and fervent forward James Dixon added further fire to the fight, as the home side battled towards the finish line.

The closing moments saw Carmarthen, who captured the trophy as recently as 2014, throw the kitchen sink at Barry in pursuit of that elusive equaliser that would have forced extra-time.

Nevertheless, the hosts dug deep to keep their opponents at bay, prompting scenes of delirium at the final whistle, as spectators, players and officials alike celebrated a landmark achievement.

Having survived the most difficult period in its history, the midweek mayhem at Jenner Park served as another memorable chapter in the Town's revival story, with Barry fans now looking forward to a televised cup final in the New Year; something that some thought they might never see again.

The second semi-final between The New Saints and Connah's Quay was to be played on Tuesday, with a date and location for the final to be confirmed after Barry's opponents are determined.

At the time of writing, holders TNS had won all 17 of their domestic fixtures in the 2016-17 campaign, while maintaining a 100 per cent record as a guest entrant in Scotland's IRN-BRU Cup.

Meanwhile, the Nomads currently sit in second in the Welsh Premier League and are the only outfit to have beaten the superlative Saints on two different occasions in 2016.

Both teams were winners in Europe this summer, with Connah's Quay advancing in the UEFA Europa League and TNS making further progress in the UEFA Champions League to boot.

This Saturday afternoon sees the Town return to Welsh League Division One matters, when Taffs Well are the visitors to Jenner Park (2pm kick-off).

A typically competitive affair, the sides have met every season since the Town's relegation from the Welsh Premier League in 2004. **AC**

Articles For Sale

ADVERTISE HERE £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. **For Motors** - £24 inc. VAT for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Advert must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. **Sorry no refunds are given.**

Super King Sealey Mattress
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07905 463518
(Buyer Collect) 47

Roma Medical Siesta
Electrically adjustable bed with mattress, side rails & monkey pole.
£500 ono
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G-Plan, 3 Seater Settee, 2 arm chairs
Beige fabric patterned
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Bikes
Three bikes for sale - Raleigh Activator with 20" frame, good tyres and Shimano gears.
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Used £60
Kiddies bike, rather worn, needs some attention but rideable condition. **£30**
Or **£120** the lot! ONO accepted.
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Thomann 25 Electronic Piano
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Caravan

Abbey 415 Four Berth light Weight Caravan
Needs a little TLC. Electronics in good order, no leaks.
Offers around £600
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Conservatory Furniture
2 seater sofa, 2 chairs & glass top table. Cream patterned cushions.
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Marks & Spencer 3 piece suite
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Electric Scooter/ Wheelchair

Strider 4 wheeled electric scooter
Full roadworthy, headlights, tail lights, indicators etc. Includes battery and charger. Seat can turn 360 degrees. Very good condition.
£350 ono
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Motors For Sale

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Yr 2002, blue, new clutch, Mot Oct 2017, 66,500 miles. **£500 ono.**
01446 621990
07814 918201 47

Electric Wheelchair
(Reason for sale too large for new car)
Bargain Price £90
01446 719350 47

Girls' football at Llancarfan!

Llancarfan Primary School girls team.

LLANCARFAN Primary School planted a footballing acorn just before half-term and we forecast that a mighty oak will grow.

Barry Town United Ladies Football Club staged a primary girls' competition on the pitches of St Cyres School in Penarth on October 21.

The team of seven girls was cobbled together at the last minute and had only achieved a mighty 20 minutes practice before the big event.

Three closely-matched, friendly and energetic games followed and Llancarfan won one and narrowly lost the other two. The girls' performance inspired the formation of a new Llancarfan football team, so with a bit of practice, who knows what we can achieve?

Huge thanks to Barry Town Ladies FC, St Cyres and the other teams for a great afternoon. **RB**

Cottrell Park ladies enjoy end of season presentation

The second team.

The first team.

ON Wednesday, November 9, the ladies of Cottrell Park Golf Club enjoyed an excellent meal at their end of season dinner.

The new ladies' captain Jeannette Williams welcomed everyone, following the meal, reports were given on the team's progress during the year on behalf of Helen Poole, first team captain, and Helen Evans, second team captain.

Both thanked all the ladies who participated in the team matches.

They gave their results of the competitions which were a mixture of wins and losses - both teams remained in their respective divisions. Vicki Long will be the next first team captain

The two younger members of the teams were congratulated on their play and their drop in handicap, Eleanor Lewis from 12 to 10 and Megan Cullinane from 19 to 14. Both will be playing in the first team next year.

Lorraine Pointon-Bell reported on the friendly teams - it had been a good year with the teams all very friendly, she also thanked all the ladies who had taken part.

The results were as usual an 'honourable draw' and Jeannette presented Lorraine with a bouquet of flowers.

A happy and enjoyable evening was had by all.

Margaret Rees picks up her trophy.

Margaret Rees is pictured left being presented with the ladies trophy on the 20th anniversary competition, celebrating the opening of Cottrell Park Golf Club, winning with 39 points.

The trophy was presented by Jeannette Williams, ladies' captain, with Lorraine Pointon-Bell, vice captain, in attendance at Presentation night. **CB**

BRYNHILL LADIES' SECTION'S PRESENTATION EVENING WAS A 'GLITTERING AFFAIR'

The ladies' presentation evening at Brynhill Golf Club on November 12 was as usual a glittering affair.

The trophies were on display ready to be presented by the ladies' captain Liz Fine and her vice-captain Olwen Thomas to all the lady winners and runners-up.

There were many trophies to present which included the major cups, which are as follows:

Ladies' club championship, winner - Gemma Evans, runner-up Sam Pascoe; Diack Championship, winner - Elizabeth Taylor, runner-up - Jo Hopkins; ladies' club championship, winner - Gemma Evans, runner-up - Sam Pascoe.

Gemma who had already been presented with five trophies, was a worthy winner of the championship trophy.

The lady golfer of the year was awarded to Andrea Page who was a well-deserved winner.

The Jenny Williams trophy was presented to Jen Pugh. This trophy is presented by the ladies' captain to the lady who has done most to help her during her year of office.

A good night was had by all who attended the presentation, with many filling their trophies with the special cocktails that Kath, the bar manager, concocted for the evening.

Mike Briscombe supplied the entertainment for the evening and the members danced the night away.

Thanks were extended to the course manager Iain Grant, and to Kath Foran and her bar staff. **JK**

Ladies champion Gemma Evans with Liz Fine.

Liz Taylor, Diack winner.

Andrea Page, lady golfer of the year.

Cieran and Ffion to surf for Wales

CIERAN HUGHES (Year 12) and Ffion Hughes (Year 10) of Cowbridge Comprehensive School have been selected to surf in the European Surfing Junior Championships for Wales in Morocco in December.

The team are scheduled to visit Morocco from December 1-12. We would like to congratulate Cieran as he has been asked to be the team captain for this championship. Ffion is the only girl in the team and will be competing in the under- 18s category; we would also like to congratulate her.

Cieran performed extremely well in the ISA World Junior Surfing Championships in The Azores in September, being the highest placed Welsh surfer in the competition and second highest placed surfer from the home nations.

Ffion competed in the British Nationals in Perranporth in October. She is British Champion in her category, winning the under-14 girls' section - well done both!

Pencoed RFC rugby round-up

Disappointing loss for the first team against Penlan

ABOVE: Gareth Cooper. ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK.

Adam Williams gets involved in the maul.

Ben Harries braces himself for a tackle.

Dan Watkins (with the ball) and Jack Thompson on the attack.

THIS 20-6 defeat against Penlan was a disappointing result for Pencoed, with the mid-table Swansea side deserved winners on the day.

The Penlan pack were at the heart of their three tries, credited to Steve Williams, with Scott Davies adding a conversion and penalty goal.

For Pencoed Adam Williams kicked two penalties.

Pencoed can reflect on a below-par performance and will look to get back on track at Cwmgors on November 26, 1.30pm kick-off.

TR

PHOENIX BATTLE FOR HARD-EARNED DRAW

Charlie Mundy.

Hannah Seward.

Kathryn Stonehouse and Lisa Hughes. ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK.

Stephanie Edmunds on the charge!

THIS was a hard-fought game between Pencoed Phoenix and Gwernwydd and the game could have gone either way.

A very good physical game to watch, these two teams always have close games, and the 12-12 results was a fair one.

Sadly Pencoed Phoenix have to say goodbye to Kathryn Stonehouse who has to retire through injury problems. What a servant to Phoenix she has been from junior level up. We will miss her on pitch.

Supporting players made breaks and passes for those very important tries, which came from Amie Stevens (2) and a conversion from Charlie Mundy.

JH

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Lower Guthrie Street, Barry CF63 4PS. 01446 737447
Mon - Fri 8.30am - 5.30pm. Saturday 8.30am - 1pm

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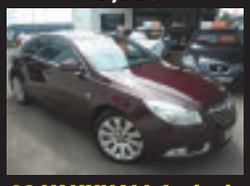

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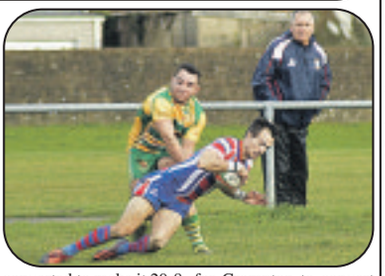
Tondu RFC stay in promotion hunt with win



IT only took a minute for Tondu to open their account in this game against Aberavon Green Stars through a Josh Tatchell penalty.

But it was the Green Stars who scored the game's first try through left wing Nick Hughes after a great move down the left.

Tatchell restored Tondu's lead with his second penalty midway through the half before full back Matthew Morgan scored their first try, Tatchell adding the conversion, and Tondu deserved their lead.

Ryan Crompton kicked a penalty for the visitors but gutsy work from second row captain Hywel Davies saw him snatch a late first-half try for the Waterwheelers which Tatchell again converted to make it 20-8 at the break.

Tondu began the second half in great fashion with a wonderful try for hooker Matthew Rowe, again converted by Tatchell.

The floodgates were now clearly open, and when Matthew Morgan sailed over for his second try it was a case of how many Tondu could score.

But the visitors refused to lay down and scored a second try through Connor Condon for Crompton to convert to make the score 32-15 going into the final 15 minutes.

The game ended with Matthew Morgan and Murphy bagging a try apiece, the first converted by Tatchell.

There's another two weeks off now for Tondu before the visit of Nantymoel on November 26, but they will pleased with this results which keeps them in the hunt for promotion.

MS

BRIDGEND BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

THE results for recent events at Bridgend Bridge Club are:

Wednesday, November 9, Club Pairs: First, Julian Pottage and Jonathan Ratcliffe; Second,Vida Halford and Glyn Williams. Third, Steve Burgoyne and Ann Fox. The winners on handicap were Julian Pottage and Jonathan Ratcliffe

Wednesday, November 9, Club Pairs Combined: First, Julian Pottage and Jonathan Ratcliffe; Second, Rob Forman and Alan Heath; Third, Steve Burgoyne and Ann Fox.

Thursday, November 10: First, Eileen Mahoney and Geoff Barnett; Second: Mike Williams and John Henson; Third: Rosalie Clode and Gareth Jenkins. The winners on handicap were Rosalie Clode and Gareth Jenkins.

Friday, November 11: First: Vida Halford and Glyn Williams; Second: Tony Ratcliffe and Julian Pottage; Third, Eileen Mahoney and Geoff Barnett. The winners on handicap were Vida Halford and Glyn Williams.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall.

Play is scheduled to begin at 7pm, so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle bridge session.

Master points are awarded, but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge.

TG

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Sports' under-11s take on Porthcawl

REMEMBRANCE Sunday arrived with perfect conditions for running rugby for this match between Bridgend Sports under-11s and Porthcawl.

The rugby stayed on hold whilst all the rugby family took time to pay respect to those that gave their lives to allow us the privilege of living our lives in peace, in a free and democratic society. Both teams impeccably observed two minutes' silence ahead of the kick-off.

Bridgend Sports looked to have scored early in the game, having received the ball from the kick off deep in their half. Harri Williams set off on a run up to his own 22 before passing to Dylan Morgan and then Tom Chick.

He used his pace outside before stepping inside to change the angle of attack. From the ruck won by Ieuan Pilliner, the ball was moved along the line by Cian John and Dylan Morgan before Bailey Llewellyn Hopkins went on the loop to support and then run wide, but he was adjudged to have stepped in touch before grounding the ball.

Porthcawl threw in at the line out and looked to move the ball but succumbed to pressure from the home team's defence to concede a knock-on.

The Sports infringed to concede a couple of early penalties to allow Porthcawl possession but not territory as they kept the away side pinned in their own half.

The pressure soon secured ball and Sports players Cadan Hayes, Cian John, Dylan Morgan. Harri Williams Chloe Gant and Tom Chick used it to good effect to attack their opponents by putting width into the play before Dewi Worrall gave one such attack a bit more impetus with a more direct run.

Megan Lewis was on hand to maintain the momentum then brush aside a couple of defenders to score the first try.

Sports kicked the ball deep from the next kick off, followed it up quickly to win a ruck and pass to Joel Rogers. He saw the space down the blind side to race into score from close range.

The Sports, with such a large squad, made sure all players entered the field of play by introducing several changes. Iestyn John swapped the outside half role with his namesake Cian John and it wasn't long before he made his mark. From a scrum, he opted to switch play from left to right, passed to supporting players and received the ball back to score the try.

Porthcawl tried to hit back from the next restart, they retained the ball but chose to kick deep to Joel Rogers, who looked up to see acres of space in front of him.

He could not resist the opportunity to use his pace to race from his own line to the other to score the Sports' fourth try.

Confidence is everything and it showed as Bridgend Sports moved the ball at every opportunity.

Porthcawl tried hard but could not find any momentum. Sports had the final say of the half when Chloe Gant tackled a Porthcawl attacker, retrieved possession and passed the ball to Joel Rogers who found himself in space again to race away for the try for the home team to lead 25-0 at half-time.

The free-flowing rugby continued in the second half. Sports kicked long to start the second half but soon retrieved possession. This time it was Cian John from outside half who called a switch with Harri Williams, who passed to Dylan Morgan.

He saw a gap and ran through it to score the opening try of the half. Megan Lewis, Tyron Davies and Harri Williams ensured Porthcawl did not get an opportunity to break out of their half with some good tackling.

This set Ieuan Pilliner on a charge, he passed to Callum Lewis who passed to Iestyn John in space on the wing for him to score his second try of the game.

Porthcawl kept battling but could not break a strong home team defence. The Sports' next score came from a scrum; Jodie Keane passed to Callum Lewis who beat the defender with a pass to Harri Williams who scored the third try of the half.

Porthcawl, to their credit, would not give up and were rewarded for their efforts when Max Williams ran from deep in his half, running across field before straightening to outsprint the defence.

It was Joel Rogers who was to have the final say when he scored his fourth try; he gathered a clearance kick, looked up to find space in front of him again to run in the final try of the game for Bridgend Sport to run out 45-5 winners.

The game was a delight to watch for the spectators and both teams gained enormous benefit from the skilful refereeing of Tony Williams. The Sports would like to extend their sincere thanks for his assistance.

Squad: Bailey Llewellyn Hopkins; Cadan Hayes; Callum Lewis; Chloe Gant; Cian John; Dewi Worrall; Dylan Morgan; Efan Dyer; Harri Williams; Iestyn John; Ieuan Pilliner; Jodie Keane; Joel Rogers; Mackenzie Dent; Mason Balmer; Megan Lewis; Thomas Chick; Thomas Coles; Tyler Burton; and Tyron Davies.

SP

Porthcawl Firsts stay top after tough match

PORTHCAWL continued at the top of the division with a hard fought but deserved 16-6 win at vastly-improved Vardre.

The Seaweeds' form on the road has been very good this season and they started in determined fashion with lock Nick Nutman showing up particularly well as he made several productive charges into the heart of the home defence to set the tone, aided by James Burge-Davies and Tom Butcher.

One of these surges brought Porthcawl to within 30 metres and when Vardre fell offside, outside half Josh White banged over the penalty for 0-3.

Vardre have a large useful pack and when they made a couple of useful forays, they benefitted from a penalty against Porthcawl which outside half Johnnie Evans easily slotted to tie the scores at 3-3.

Second row Jake Holland showed his prowess for Porthcawl with some great work at the breakdown, turning over the ball on numerous occasions early on and when a Vardre forward failed to release at the ruck, White slotted his second penalty from fully 43 metres for Porthcawl and 3-6.

The match was being played at a high tempo by both sides and home full-back Tom Eynon was having a particularly good match with his catching and attacking, causing the Seaweeds' defence a number of questions.

For Porthcawl, centre Sean Wilcox was also showing up well with some slick distribution, before wing Joe Muir intercepted for Porthcawl outside his own 22 and found himself clear, only to be caught by the covering defence after a great run.

It was now the home side's turn to apply the pressure and when Porthcawl gave away a soft penalty 30 metres out, Evans again brought it level at 6-6 right on half-time.

Porthcawl had threatened throughout the first half to put tries on the board, only for a hatful of chances to fall foul of a forward or dropped pass at the crucial moment.

However, when the Seaweeds' pack took a scrum against the head, skipper for the day Ross Parsons engineered the ideal platform from which some slick handling found centre Gareth Rees, who darted over for a deserved try, which White improved and suddenly it was 6-13 to Porthcawl.

Porthcawl lost full-back Ben Thomas to a hamstring pull 25 minutes into the half, replaced by Sam Parker as the match entered a scrappy final phase with errors aplenty from both sides.

With the match needing a defining score, it was White's boot that put Porthcawl two scores clear as he landed a 40-metre penalty for 6-16, which is how it stayed.

Not the most clinical display by Porthcawl, yet full of incident and excitement, it was a relieved Seaweeds side coming away with the spoils.

After so many away matches this season, Porthcawl supporters will be glad to welcome their side back to South Road on November 26 for the visit of Tonmawr.

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The GEM - FLYING THE FLAG FOR WALES!

Pumas caged, but more is now expected against Japan

by DON JOHN

AFTER the previous week's depressingly limp defeat to Australia, the depleted 50,000 crowd at Cardiff's Principality Stadium on Saturday knew that Wales v Argentina, on the sombre occasion of Remembrance, was never going to be a memorable rugby classic.

...And so it turned out, though in fairness, the Welsh camp was focused on one thing only – a win, no matter what – to restore national pride and confidence and get back on track against tough, durable opponents now hardened by combat in the southern hemisphere.

In this respect, and to their credit, they succeeded admirably – answering critics with a much more urgent display that kept the dangerous Pumas caged without completely restraining them – the outcome only finally decided by the reliable boot of full back Leigh Halfpenny, now thankfully recovered from long-term injury and back in his country's colours.

In contrast to the porous defence that had generously given surprised Wallaby runners the freedom of Cardiff and leaked a clutch of tries, this time a more combative, controlled line-up, showing six changes (two enforced) faced up to the physical threat from the outset, led from the front by perennially young match skipper Gethin Jenkins and peerless man-of-the-match Alun Wyn Jones – despite still coping with the sad loss of his father.

Just as in the previous week, the visitors went ahead within minutes of the start through a penalty, but when a second attempt failed, Halfpenny stepped up to equalise and when Argentina were again penalised soon afterwards, he edged Wales ahead (6-3).

A lengthy period of sustained pressure deep in Puma territory saw outstanding wing Liam Williams' brave attempted touchdown in the corner thwarted; and a spate of penalty awards spurned; intense Welsh efforts failing to put further points on the board before halftime – which many feared would prove costly later.

However, the restart saw Wales back on the attack, this time Liam Williams capping a scintillating move wide out, to take Wales into an 11-3 lead – which was almost immediately reduced to a single point with a converted try; only for scrum half Gareth Davies to finally reward Welsh pressure with a try close in, converted by Halfpenny, to make it 18-10.

The seesaw exchanges saw the dogged Pumas twice bring the score back to a one-point deficit with a second converted try and a penalty that took it right down to the wire; but Halfpenny then settled the issue with two accurately-struck place kicks to give Wales a hard-fought 24-20 win, to the obvious relief of the embattled Welsh camp.

However, all the coaches know that welcome though this win was, there can be no taking the foot off the gas in the third home match of the Under Armour autumn series against Japan on Saturday.

While the latter certainly cannot be taken lightly, a similar narrow win over the international 'minnows' may not be enough to ease pressure on Wales to continue to progress, and regain the form that has brought them such glittering success in the Gatland era.

Serbia draw dents World Cup hopes...

Another home draw puts Wales on the back foot in the race for Russia

by GARETH JAMIESON

WHEN many people point to where the revival of Wales' football fortunes took place, most point to the 6-1 mauling received at the hands of Serbia in 2012.

After that drubbing, a result so severe that Chris Coleman (who had been at the helm a mere matter of months) considered quitting his role as manager, Wales turned it round to defeat Scotland in an epic game in the pouring rain of the Cardiff City Stadium.

However, Wales' results post-Scotland were still a mixed bag, the only other win coming in the snow of Hampden Park against the same opposition. The real watershed (in this writer's opinion) came in the 3-0 dismantling by Serbia in Cardiff, nearly a year to the day of that 6-1 drubbing.

A wake-up call both tactically and spiritually, Wales' progress since that night has been incredible, encompassing lengthy unbeaten runs, clean sheets galore and of course qualification for (and making up the last four of) Euro 2016.

It's understandable then that Serbia should be so closely connected to Wales' successes (and failures), the bête noir of recent times. So what better time to face them than with them topping qualifying group D for the 2018 World Cup on seven points, Wales (after the disappointing 1-1 home draw with Georgia) trailing them in third place (behind the Republic of Ireland) on five points.

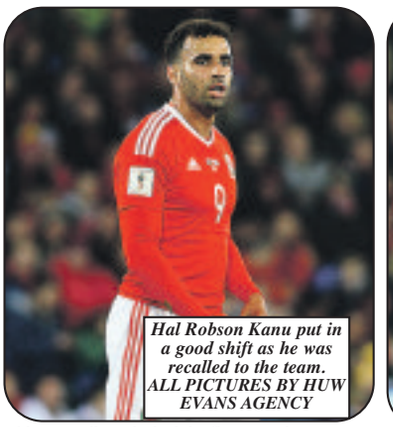
While that Georgia game had seen Wales shorn of Joe Allen and Aaron Ramsey, highlighting the lack of strength in depth, both returned to the starting line-up on Saturday evening, a much-needed boost for a game that was tricky before a ball had even been kicked, and now took on monumental significance after the last round of fixtures (made even more important by the Republic of Ireland's 1-0 win in Austria hours earlier).

Serbia are no pushovers, and their position at the top of the group is not a case of early pacesetters lacking the legs for the race ahead. If Wales had looked at this game and Georgia with the intent of taking four points, the draw last month put added pressure on getting a result (and delivering a performance) against the group leaders.

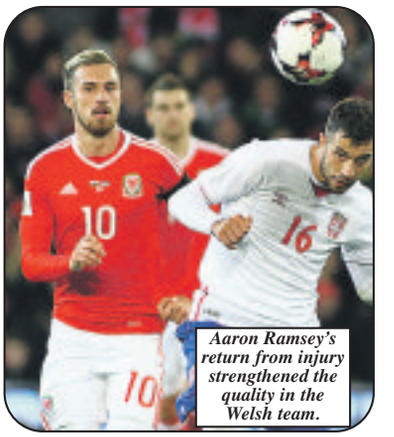
It was pressure that Wales seemed to shrug off in the early stages, Serbia having the ball but few opportunities as tactically-altered Wales, playing with a back four, seemed comfortable marshalling any Serbian attack.

It had all the hallmarks at this early stage of being a scrappy affair, and so it proved until Hal Robson Kanu (recalled to partner Sam Vokes up front in a bold move from Chris Coleman) tirelessly worked an opening for Gareth Bale, and the Real Madrid star fizzed a low drive into the back of the net to give the team a lead that would hopefully settle the nerves.

When Serbia got a foothold they looked capable but rarely dangerous, the more narrow tactics employed by Coleman seeing the men in red stretched at times, while Wales' attacking play, even with two strikers, lacked the finesse and accuracy required to add to the lead.



Hal Robson Kanu put in a good shift as he was recalled to the team. ALL PICTURES BY HUW EVANS AGENCY



Aaron Ramsey's return from injury strengthened the quality in the Welsh team.

Chris Coleman changed his tactics, but couldn't get the vital three points.

As the game wore on it seemed the stage was set for Wales to grab a vital win, and three valuable points, against their nearest rivals in the race for Russia. But in the space of 60 seconds, everything was thrown into disarray. A Welsh attack saw Bale strike again, this time with his right foot, only to see the effort rebound off the post and miss any contact from a Welsh shirt.

The ball found its way upfield, and the ball was crossed in to Newcastle United's Aleksandar Mitrovic, who found space between tiring Welsh defenders to head home off the post and earn Serbia a battling, and not entirely undeserved point that puts a dent in Wales' World Cup hopes.

Four points adrift of leaders Republic of Ireland, Wales must travel to Dublin next March knowing anything less than a win could be the death knell for their qualification dreams, especially since their next game is the return with Serbia.

While not over by a long shot, the pressure is now on a Wales team whose ascent up the rankings, and whose profile has never been bigger, now sees them regarded as a scalp. The plucky Wales of the summer is no more – the team shouldn't just be surprised at any success that comes their way.

Instead they must grasp the responsibility and expectation that comes with being top seeds in the group, the 11th best team in the world – and draws at home to Georgia and Serbia are not the results you would expect from teams in that position.

You could argue there are mitigating circumstances; we weren't at our strongest against Georgia, while Serbia are a far better team than rankings and seedings suggest, but at home these are games that, in order to qualify, we could, and should, have won.

It's ominous to note that of the six remaining games, all but two are away from home, tricky trips to Georgia and Moldova among them, and with wins essential, any wiggle room we may have thought we would have at this stage is gone.

Since the opening win over Moldova, we have drawn three games, but taken the lead in all of them (twice against Austria), highlighting that game management is something that appears to be lacking, while our watertight defence, a hallmark of the qualifying success for European Championships, is now looking a tad leaky, whether we are operating a flat back four or three at the back, and the energy levels of the players appears to be low (unsurprising when certain players have only just returned from injury or aren't getting game time at their clubs).

While these issues are critical in the bigger picture, it's nothing that Chris Coleman, his back room staff and the team themselves won't be unaware of, and will no doubt be seeking to rectify come March.

While Dublin won't be an easy place to go to, Wales should have nothing to fear from Martin O'Neill's men in what will be a closely-fought and pivotal contest in terms of this group.

World Cup qualification isn't over by a long shot – there's plenty of more football to be played and a few twists and turns left in this group – but for Wales, anything but a win in Dublin could be the beginning of the end of our dreams of making it Russia in 2018.

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